PERSIAN CALENDAR

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CALENDAR

OF

PERSIAN CORRESPONDENCE

BEING LETTERS WHICH PASSED BETWEEN SOME OF THE COMPANY'S SERVANTS AND INDIAN RULERS AND NOTABLES

VOL. III, 1770-2

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PREFACE

The third volume of the *Persian Calendar* covers two momentous years, 1770-1, during which the Mahrattas, burning to avenge their defeat at Panipat, strove to establish an empire in Hindustan, and began to threaten the English possessions in Bengal. Their gradual advance, as one chief after another fell before them, needed all the resource and vigilance of the English Company, if they were to defeat the gathering league of enemies. They had however one advantage on their side. The name of the 'Great Mogul' was still a power in the land; anyone who could obtain his *farmāns* and the sanction of his authority for their acts, and was also able to back that authority with force, found themselves in the position of champions of law and right as against rebels. The holder of that title was now the pensioner and dependant of the English, living at Allahabad. The letters are a chronicle of the mortifications, the hesitations and the manœuvres of that unhappy creature to escape to his own capital. On one side were the English who gave him security and a pension and made use of his authority; on the other the Mahrattas, who held out the pleasing illusions of freedom and glory. When they seized Delhi, Shah ʻĀlam hesitated no more; abandoning his place of safety and his pension, he cast in his lot with the enemies of the Company.

From the tangle of plot and counter-plot, of intrigue and suspicion the personality of the Governor of Fort William in Bengal, to whom most of the letters in this volume are addressed or in whose name they were issued, does not emerge with any great distinctness. He was John Cartier, a man who had received the thanks of the Board for his services when Chief of Dacca, and whose administration was later to win the praises of Burke. In 1769 as Senior Member of Council he succeeded Verelst, the retiring Governor. His chief characteristics seem to have been caution and a capacity for agreeing with his Council. But the times needed greater qualities of leadership than were ever his; his name is hardly remembered now, and in the *Dictionary of National Biography* we shall seek for him in vain.

The Introduction and Appendixes are the work of Maulavi Badrud-Din Ahmad, B.A., Head Maulavi of the Persian section in the Imperial Record department.

It is perhaps necessary to remind readers that all the documents here presented are translations from *copies* of Persian originals. No originals survive. The copies were made at the time of issue or receipt, in two separate series of volumes of different sizes.

A. F. SCHOLFIELD,

Keeper of the Records.

New Year's Day, 1919.

INTRODUCTION

Vol. I.

The first volume of this series deals mainly with the circumstances that led to the transfer of the sovereign power in Bengal from the hands of the puppet *Nāẓims*, whom the East India Company raised to the throne one after another, into those of the Company, and the gradual consolidation of that power. It covers nine of the most eventful years in Indian history.

Effects of Plassey.

The revolution that took place in Bengal in 1757 turned the attention of the chiefs of Northern India to the eastern provinces. They saw, and could hardly see unmoved, a handful of foreigners gathering wealth and power in the rich lowlands of Bengal, and even presuming to dictate in matters connected with the *ṣūbahdārī* of Bengal, Behar and Orissa. An excuse for joining in what seemed to them would be a scramble for the spoil, was soon forthcoming and was readily seized.

The Emperor ʿĀlamgīr II lived at Delhi, a virtual prisoner in the hands of his minister G͟hāzīu'd-Dīn. His son, the Prince Imperial ʿĀlī Guhar, had fled and now resolved to rise and free his father. Having secured a patent from his father for the *ṣūbahdārī* of Behar, his next move was to attempt the conquest of the Eastern Provinces, which would supply him with men and money. He was joined at once by Shujāʿu'd-Daulah, *Ṣūbahdār* of Oudh, Muḥammad Qulī K͟hān, governor of Allahabad, Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares and Ghazipur, and other neighbouring petty chiefs. And so finding himself at the head of 40,000 more or less zealous followers, he was able to cross the Karamnassa in the early part of 1759 and to invest Patna (157)[1]. Meantime G͟hāzīu'd-Dīn K͟hān in the name of the Emperor had sent orders to his satrap Mīr Jaʿfar, *Ṣūbahdār* or *Nāẓim* of Bengal, to oppose the Prince and, if possible, to apprehend him and send him a prisoner to Delhi (123). It seems that the *Nāẓim* was ready to buy peace with this dangerous league, and would have done so, but for the intervention of Clive, at this time Governor of Fort William in Bengal (26). For the Company, in their own interest, could not but oppose the Prince; they were bound to secure the throne of the *Nāẓim*, who was their creature, and prevent it from falling into stronger hands, lest the results of the battle of Plassey should be undone. The mainspring of the hostile expedition was Muḥammad Qulī K͟hān, governor of Allahabad; but before either side had struck a blow Clive had won him over in the usual way. (We find the first indications of this noble's friendship for the English in letter 94.) Deserted by Muḥammad Qulī K͟hān and worsted in repeated encounters with the *Nāẓim's* army, the *Shāhzādah* realised at length the futility of persevering with the expedition[2]. His money was exhausted and himself reduced to such utter misery that he wrote to Clive imploring

The *Shāhzādah* invades Behar.

Is defeated, and seeks English protection

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[1] These numbers refer to the letters in the *Persian Calendar*, vols I-III.

[2] The historians generally say that the reason for Muḥammad Qulī K͟hān's abandoning the seige of Patna so abruptly, was that he had received news that Shujāʿu'd-Daulah had taken advantage of his absence to seize the fortress of Allahabad. But the inconsistency in

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his protection and offering to withdraw from the country, if he was given a sum of money sufficient to cover the expenses of his journey. To this proposal Clive acceded[1].

The results of Plassey surprised no one more than the victors themselves. They found themselves committed to playing a part expressly forbidden by the Court of Directors, yet forced upon them by their surroundings, if their lives and their properties were to remain safe. And with success came ambition. That their ambitions were too often tainted is hardly to be wondered at, when we bear in mind the age, the country and their particular circumstances[2]. The *Nāẓim* very soon saw that he could not satisfy the servants of the Company, unless he yielded to each and every exorbitant demand as it was put forward. His treasury was already drained of its last coin in making good the lavish promises to the Company and its chief servants individually. Bengal was bankrupt, and was fast nearing anarchy. The invasion of the *Shāhzādah* made matters worse. It exposed the utter helplessness of the *Nāẓim* and showed the Company how completely he depended on them to defend his territories from outside attacks. They for their part considered that the services which their troops rendered him on this occasion, justified them in seeking yet further privileges, among which was the grant of the *Faujdārī* of Sylhet and Islamabad. But the *Nāẓim* refused to go so far, and the relations between him and the Company were strained to the breaking-point (456).

Mīr Ja'far offends the Company,

All this while a shrewd and ambitious young man was watching the development of events. Qāsim 'Alī Khān (often called Mīr Qāsim) had been deputed by his father-in-law Nawab Mīr Ja'far to go to Calcutta as his representative to settle matters with the Council. He asked for a private meeting with Vansittart[3], who was now the Governor at Fort William, and then and there struck a shameful bargain on his own account (400). He promised the cession of the three districts of Burdwan, Midnapur and Chittagong to the Company, if his father-in-law could be removed from the *masnad* to make room for him. The temptation was too much to be resisted. In October 1760 the old ally of Plassey was deposed by the Council, and the new friend of the Company was installed in his place.

and is deposed.

The Shāhzādah becomes Shāh 'Ālam.

The first danger that the new *Nāẓim* was called upon to face was a renewal of hostilities by the *Shāhzādah*. (On the assassination of his father 'Ālamgīr II he had proclaimed himself Emperor with the sounding title of Shāh 'Ālam, 'king of the world,' and appointed Nawab

the accounts given by the various histories, taken with the letters of the *Calendar*, gives a clear hint that the historians have mistaken cause for effect: Shujā'u'd-Daulah must have seized Allahabad after he had become suspicious of the Khān's doings in Behar. This general error is probably traceable to Ghulām Ḥusain Khān: *see* his *Seir Mutaqherin* (Eng. trans.) vol. II p. 317; Maulānā Muḥammad Najmul-Ghanī, *Tārīkh-i-Oudh*, vol. II p. 11.

[1] 'The Shahzada has sent him [Clive] repeated letters tending [*sic*] to throw himself under his protection, but that he has absolutely determined not to receive him. That hearing how great his distress is, he [Clive] has sent him 500 gold mohurs.' *Minutes of the Select Committee*, 30 May 1759.

[2] *See* R. Muir, *The Making of British India* (London, 1915), doc. 12, p. 59; Clive's letter to his father 19 Aug. 1757, *ib.*, pp. 59, 60; Imperial Record department, *Press List of the Select Committee's proceedings 1756-74* (Calcutta, 1917), p. 58.

[3] Clive left for England in January 1760. His immediate successor was J. Z. Holwell, who was in office for six months, till Vansittart assumed charge in July 1760.

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Shujā'u'd-Daulah his Vazīr.) But before he could muster an adequate force, Major Carnac took the offensive and defeated both his generals, Law and Kāmgār Khān (824-5). To crush such an enemy would yield but small results; to conciliate one whose title was still held in awe throughout Hindustan might pave the way for a further advance. Such a policy however did not please Nawab Mīr Qāsim, who dreaded an alliance between the Emperor and the Company[1]. He even advised the Council not to recognise Shāh 'Ālam as Emperor (967). But recognition had come from another quarter: Aḥmad Shāh Abdālī the Afghan invader who had come to India to break the Mahratta Power, had sent word to Shāh 'Alam bidding him to return to Delhi and take his seat on the throne of his ancestors.[2] The Emperor shortly after took his departure for Delhi, and joined Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah at Saidabad (1186, 1208, 1418).

He invades Behar again, and is defeated.

While the Company had to face the troubles created by the *Shāhzādah's* entry into Behar, a new enemy had arisen in another quarter. Under a treaty concluded in 1751 between Nawab 'Alī Vardī Khān, the *Nāzim* of Bengal, and Raghūjī Bhonsla, the Mahratta Raja of Nagpur, the *Nāzim* had promised the Raja to pay 12 *lākhs* of rupees annually as the *chauth*[3] of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, the last of which was ceded to the Raja a few years later. The Mahrattas on their part had engaged not to set foot in Bengal again, and the river Subarnarekha was made the boundary between their territories. This stipulated tribute had been in arrears for some years and now gave Shēo Bhat, the Mahratta *Ṣūbahdār* of Cuttack, an excuse for invading Bengal. Taking advantage of the quarrel between the Company and the Prince Imperial, he marched his army into Midnapore and attacked the English troops stationed there under J. Johnstone[4] (884). An English force was sent at once to oppose him, but he retreated to Cuttack without fighting. Another force was despatched under Captain R. Knox to keep the Mahrattas in check, and engage them in case they attempted to march towards Murshidabad. Jānūjī Bhōnsla returned at this time from the battle-field of Panipat and himself wrote to the *Nāzim* again demanding the arrears of *chauth* for Bengal and Behar. The Council at Calcutta proposed to the *Nāzim* to send an expedition to Cuttack and seize the city, for which the present condition of the Mahrattas afforded a good opportunity (1394). The *Nāzim* at first agreed, but later drew back: he was not prepared to incur the heavy cost.

The Mahrattas invade Bengal.

The Company propose to seize Cuttack.

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[1] The *Nāzim* most probably feared that it might lead to the Emperor granting the English the *Ṣūbahdārī* or at least the *Dīvānī* of the provinces. The Council had in fact once made an attempt to obtain for the Company 'the Subahdari, Dīvānī and Bakhshigari of the army'. *See* I. R. D., *op. cit.*, pp. 19, 33; Letters from Rāy Durlabh to the *Shāhzādah* and Major Carnac to the Council.

[2] *See* W. Francklin, *The History of the Reign of Shah Aulum*, (Allahabad, 1915), p. 16.

[3] *See* Appendix C; W. W. Hunter, *Orissa* (London, 1872), vol. III p. 30 n.

[4] 'Johnson' in the original translation is evidently a mistake for 'Johnstone'. He was the first Chief Factor or Resident appointed to Midnapore after the cession of the place to the Company by Mīr Qāsim.

'On the Resident lay the responsibility of repelling an invasion, or of making an advance to the Company's weavers: of settling the revenue of a pergunah, or of instituting a court-martial on a mutinous sepoy'. J. C. Price, *Notes on the History of Midnapore* (Calcutta, 1876), vol. I p. 2.

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Although for the time being the danger of an external attack was averted, internal troubles of a serious nature were threatening. Mīr Qāsim was proving a very different ruler from his father-in-law. As soon as he found himself installed on the *masnad* of Murshidabad, his first care was to grant all the concessions he had promised to the Company as the price of his elevation to the throne, and to see that all such payments as were due to them were made as soon as possible. With this view he set himself to regulating the revenue

Mīr Qāsim and the Company.

system of the country. But he soon began to feel that he had an impossible task before him. His difficulties were increased by the overbearing insolence of the Company's servants[1]. The trade of the Company was confined to imports and exports and was exempt from customs and transit duties. This was quite clear, and the *Nāẓim's* government never challenged this right. But when the servants of the Company, who were allowed to engage in the inland trade on their own account, began to abuse the *dastaks* (passports) of their employers by smuggling goods under their sanction, the *Nāẓim* naturally grew indignant. The Company's servants not only asserted that they were

Private trade.

entitled to carry on private trade duty-free, but sold this stolen privilege to other native traders. These traders chose either to become commercial agents of the Company or to pay them large sums for permission to trade in their name : it was the only way to save themselves from ruin from such unfair competition. The public revenue was thus shamefully defrauded, and the ill-feeling engendered showed itself in constant acts of hostility against the officials of the *Niẓāmat* (1669, 1682, 1703). But that was not all: the *Nāẓim* began to suspect that the English were secretly negotiating with the Emperor to acquire the *Dīvānī* of his dominions, and so wrest the revenue administration of his country from his hands altogether (1291).

A duty of 9 per cent on the prime cost in one lump sum was imposed upon the inland trade of the Company's servants. It had been agreed

Vansittart in a false position.

to by one of their own representatives, Henry Vansittart, the Governor. But no sooner had Vansittart published the agreement to the Council than the whole body denounced it in the most vehement terms. Not a pice, they declared, would they pay on any commodity, except the duty of 2½ per cent on salt, the only duty to which the *Nāẓim* in their opinion was entitled. Warren Hastings alone sided with the Governor in upholding the justice of the agreement against the clamours of blind self-interest. Every attempt at conciliation only produced more hectoring; every effort to obtain a fair settlement was met with obstruction,

Mīr Qāsim abolishes all duties.

until at length the *Nāẓim* resolved on a bold step. He abolished all duties, and so placed his own subjects on an equal footing with the Company's servants (1695, 1781). This was too much for his opponents,

War between Mīr Qāsim and the Company.

who at once declared war upon him. William Ellis, Chief of Patna factory, a hot-headed, nervous man with exaggerated ideas of the dangers of his own situation, captured the town. What followed, is a

Mīr Ja'far again seated on the throne.

matter of common history. Mīr Qāsim was deposed, and the aged Mīr Ja'far was brought out from his seclusion and again seated on

[1] *See* H. Beveridge, *Comprehensive History of India* (London, 1858), vol. i, p. 673.

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the *gaddī*.[1] The deposed *Nāẓim* was defeated and fled westward, but not before all the English prisoners including Mr Ellis had been massacred[2]. His intention was to proceed first to the Deccan and try to engage the Mahrattas in his favour, or failing this, to go to the country of the Rohillas, whose assistance he hoped to buy with his money. But the Vazīr of Oudh had heard of the treasure he was carrying, and was determined to rob him (1962). He saw in him too a possible tool to use against the English, and so he sent letters full of sympathy and promises, and succeeded in inviting him to the Emperor's Court at Allahabad (2053). This drew an emphatic protest from the English, and the Emperor and the Vazīr were asked to deliver up Mīr Qāsim (2005, 2062). The Vazīr, who had the Emperor in his power, temporized. Both he and the Company were desirous of entering into a mutual alliance, but neither party was prepared to yield to the terms of the other: the Vazīr would not betray Mīr Qāsim and the English would not cede the province of Behar (2050).

Mīr Qāsim at the Imperial Court.

Mīr Ja'far had no quarrel with Shujā'u'd-Daulah and would have made peace with him most readily, if left to act independently. For the worst that he could expect from Shujā'u'd-Daulah's ascendency over him was to remain under his tutelage, which would at any rate leave him a free hand in the administration of his own dominions. But under the Company he was in a much worse position. He had hardly any money in the treasury, and the state of his country promised nothing towards the filling of it. The unhappy *Ṣūbahdār* bewailed to the Board the mournful condition of his province. 'Merchants' he writes, 'refuse to pay the customary duties under cover of the protection of English factories. The *gumāshtahs* of the Company have forcibly taken possession of villages and force tobacco and other goods upon the *ta'lluqdārs* and ryots, whereby the country is desolated and a very heavy loss falls upon the *Sarkār*. The agents of several Englishmen everywhere buy and sell rice and other grains in the markets and granaries of Bengal, whereby the *Faujdārs* and other officers are prevented from sending grain to the army. The woodfarm belonging to Purnea, which has hitherto paid a tribute of Rs 50,000 a year, is now in the hands of the English, and His Excellency [Mīr Ja'far] does not receive a single *kaurī* from it. The sepoys who are sent from the factories into different parts of the country to hear complaints, desolate the villages and put the ryots to flight by their oppressions, whereby His Excellency's revenues are greatly injured. The poor of the country who used always to deal in salt, betelnut, tobacco, etc., have now been deprived of their daily bread by the trade of the Europeans' (2410). In addition to all this there was the unceasing demand for money to meet

Mīr Ja'far's plight.

[1] 'There is besides an obvious impropriety in setting up, pulling down and again restoring the same man, which cannot fail to be represented to the disadvantage of the Company'. *Court's letter to Bengal*, February 1764.

[2] It is said that they were put to death at the Nawab's order by one 'Samroo'. His real name was Walter Reinhardt. He was a German adventurer and had entered the service of Mīr Qāsim as military instructor to his army. 'Samroo' was the Indian corruption of 'Sombre', the nickname given to Reinhardt on account of his dismal and gloomy appearance. See *The Diaries of Three Surgeons of Patna*. Ed. by W. K. Firminger. (Calcutta, 1909. 4°.)

Vol. I. the expenses of the wars which the Company had to wage, as they said, in defence of his country (2402). Both Shāh 'Ālam and Shujā'u'd-Daulah understood well the intolerable situation of the *Nāẓim*. They had therefore while contemplating hostilities against the Company, granted the *sanad* confirming Mīr Ja'far as the *Ṣūbahdār* (2154).

The Vazīr invades Behar, but is defeated.

The Vazīr and the Company failing to reach an agreement, war broke out in February 1764. But the victory of Major Munro at Buxar eight months later (23 October), delivered Oudh into the hands of the English, and the Vazīr deserted by his own officers fled to the Rohillas (2412-15, 2423, 2426, 2432, 2505). Shāh 'Ālam took the only road open to him; he was free from the irksome protection of the Vazīr of Oudh: the Mahrattas were but doubtful friends: the Niẓām himself was in constant war with them: the French ascendency had been broken at Wandewash and Pondicherry: the English were supreme, and with them he now hastened to make his peace (2485, 2490). He had been favourably struck with their treatment of him after his second invasion of Behar (1078), and there was the beguiling hope that they would restore in his person the ancient dignity of the Great Mughals (2681).

Treaty with the Emperor.

On 29 December 1764 the Emperor by a *farmān* assigned to the Company the country of Ghazipur and the rest of the *zamīndārī* of Raja Balvant Singh; they on their part engaging to hand over to the Emperor Allahabad (2590) and the rest of the country belonging to Shujā'u'd-Daulah.

Mīr Ja'far dies, and is succeeded by his son Najmu'd-Daulah.

The old Nawab Mīr Ja'far died on 6 February 1765 (2551). A few days before his death he had placed his son Najmu'd-Daulah on the *masnad*, and reported the fact to John Spencer, the Governor,[1] commending to his favour and protection (2549) his family and one of his most trusted officials, the Mahārāja Nanda Kumār ('Nuncomar'). The members of the Council were however anxious to crown the young *Nāẓim* anew, intending thereby to establish their right (or at least a precedent in their favour) to place the successors to the *Niẓāmat* on the throne, and, as usual, to extort more money as the price of their good will. Two of their members, J. Johnstone and R. Leycester, were sent to Murshidabad in order 'formally' to place the young Prince on the *masnad* (2565). Other measures were adopted at the same time to keep the *Nāẓim's* court completely under control. Muḥammad Riẓā Khān was appointed *Nāib Nāẓim*, while Mahārāja Nanda Kumār, who was addicted to intrigue and possessed a considerable hold on the young *Nāẓim*, was summoned to Calcutta to stand his trial on a charge of having corresponded with Raja Balvant Singh of Benares (2607, 2616).

Clive returns to India.

The Directors in London had for some time been shocked and alarmed at the indolence and corruption of their servants in Bengal and at the ruinous effects of their misconduct. They now sent Clive armed with dictatorial powers to cleanse the Augean stable. He landed in May 1764. As soon as his hands were free, he set himself to secure a permanent peace with Shujā'u'd-Daulah. In order to remove

[1] Vansittart returned to England in November 1764.

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Treaties concluded with the Emperor and the Vazīr. The Company becomes *Dīvān*.

The *Nāzim* becomes a pensioner of the Company.

every possibility of future collision with the Vazīr, he decided that the Company should no longer delay the assumption of the *Dīvānī,* which the Emperor had offered them more than once, as well as the military defence of the province of Bengal, Behar and Orissa (1291). With this object, after visiting the boy *Nāzim* at Murshidabad, he proceeded to Allahabad, where in August 1765 a series of treaties were concluded between the Emperor, the Vazīr of Oudh, the *Nāzim* of Bengal and the English[1]. The Vazīr and the Company bound themselves in an offensive and defensive alliance against all enemies[2]. One of the concessions which the English demanded under the treaty with the Vazīr, was the right to establish 'factories' within his dominions. But the Vazīr objected to this so strongly that the point was not pressed, and it was merely stipulated that the Company should have liberty to trade duty free. An important modification was also carried out in the treaty concluded with Nawab Najmu'd-Daulah, by which the total expenses of his court were fixed at a little over 53 *lākhs* of rupees, and this was ratified by the Emperor. To Shah 'Ālam the treaties brought nothing but disappointment and humiliation : he had been promised the whole of Oudh, and received only Kora and Allahabad ; he was in a position inferior to his own minister, for the Vazīr was an ally of the Company's, while he was but a pensioner, and a pension can always be withdrawn; he was confined to his demesne, while his family were at Delhi, which had lately been ravaged by the Jāts[3] (2533A); to delay marching to his capital might mean to lose it ; to march at once meant breaking with the English and falling into the hands of Rohilla or Mahratta.

Vol. II.

Verelst succeeds Clive as Governor.

Ahmad Shah Abdālī.

Lord Clive sailed for England on 26 January 1767, leaving Verelst in charge of the Company's affairs in Bengal. Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah, the second son of Nawab Mīr Ja'far, had succeeded his brother Najmu'd-Daulah on the throne of Murshidabad in May 1766. The fugitive Nawab Mīr Qāsim had not yet given up all hope of regaining Bengal and of driving the English from the country. It was rumoured that he had invited the Afghān king Aḥmad Shāh Abdālī to come and help him. On 2 February 1767 the Governor received a letter from Muḥammad Riẓā Khān, informing him that Aḥmad Shāh had crossed the Attock and was 120 miles from Lahore (11A). Six years had passed since the battle of Panipat had raised the Afghān invader in the eyes of every devout Mussulman to the position of Champion of Islam in India. As a great part of the *Calendar* deals with his movements, it is not unfitting to give here an outline of his early life and connection with India.

His early career and connection with India.

Aḥmad Shāh was a lieutenant of the conqueror Nādir Shāh of Persia, and belonged to the Saddozai family of the Abdālī clan of

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[1] *See* Appendix B. Aitchison, *Treaties, Engagements and Sanads* (Calcutta, 1909), vol. I. One of the articles ran : 'The English forces shall be withdrawn from the dominions of His Highness, excepting such as may be necessary for the garrison of Chunar or for the defence and protection of the King in the City of Illiabad, if His Majesty should require a force for that purpose'.

[2] Of the four contracting parties these were the only two who had the military power at their command.

[3] *See* Jawālā Sahāi, *History of Bhurtpore* (Calcutta, 1898).

Vol. II. Afghāns. On the assassination of Nādir Shāh in 1747 he returned to Afghanistan and proclaimed himself king at Kandahar, claiming sway over the eastern part of Nādir's wide empire that stretched from the Caspian Sea to the river Indus. He managed to bring a number of tribes under his control, and after amassing a considerable quantity of money and a huge army, invaded India in the same year and took Multan and Lahore. But the Mughal army under Prince Aḥmad and the Vazīr Qamaru'd-Dīn Khān soon met and defeated him at Sirhind, and he had to retire to his own country. In 1751 he again invaded India, conquering the whole of the Punjab, and subduing Kashmir in the following year. He crossed the Indus for the fourth time in 1756 to avenge himself on the Emperor of Hindustan for the recapture of Lahore. He next entered Delhi and received the homage of the Emperor. On his return to Afghanistan he left the Punjab under his son Tīmūr Shāh. But he had again to return to India more than once to protect his conquests from those untiring marauders the Mahrattas and the Sikhs who were for ever ready to take advantage of the disorders in Delhi, where the hated Ghāzīu'd-Dīn ruled as a despot in the name of the feeble Aḥmad Shāh. The Mahrattas were gaining strength day by day; it seemed likely that they would establish an empire of their own in the very heart of Hindustan, and even make the Great Mughal and other Muhammadan chiefs their vassals, if not their slaves. Their rapid progress so terrified the Muhammadan princes of Hindustan that they sent an invitation to Aḥmad Shāh Abdālī, entreating him to come and deliver them from 'the enemies of the country and Religion'. The Shāh responded to their call, and on 6 January 1761 he met some 300,000 Mahrattas at Panipat and inflicted upon them a terrible defeat. But the Sikhs still troubled the Punjab, and thrice again was Aḥmad Shāh compelled to come down to India, once in 1762, again in 1767 and once more in 1769.

It is with the Shāh's expedition in 1767 that the second volume of the *Persian Calendar* begins. At this time Raghūnāth Rāo, uncle to the young Pēshwā Mādhū Rāo, was in Hindustan ravaging the country of the Jāts. He had besieged Gohad, whose chief had rebelled against the Mahrattas after their defeat at Panipat. Raghūnāth Rāo was joined by another great Mahratta chief, Mulhar Rāo Hulkar, who had assisted Shujā'u'd-Daulah in his campaigns against the English in 1765, and had lately been urging the Emperor to throw off the English protection and march to the capital. The devastation spread by the two chiefs had alarmed all Hindustan, including the protégé of the Company Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah.

Eighth invasion of India, 1767.

While the Mahrattas were following their traditional occupation of plunder and rapine, Aḥmad Shāh entered India with a large army. Crossing the Indus at Attock, he proceeded to Lahore, although his advance was continually harassed by the Sikhs. No sooner had the news of the invader's approach reached India than Raghūnāth Rāo changed his plan. He forthwith made his peace with the Jāts and invited the other chiefs of Hindustan to combine against the Shāh. The Shāh in the meantime moved towards Delhi and called upon the Rohillas to join him (20). But he had only proceeded as far as Fateh-

abad when the Sikhs fell upon his baggage near Lahore, threatening the city itself which was held by the Shāh's brother-in-law. He was obliged to fall back upon Lahore, but after a short while resumed his march towards Delhi. Yet the Sikhs still clung to him; though not daring to meet the invader face to face, they hovered about his army at a distance, now attacking its vanguard, now plundering his baggage. There was clearly no chance of crushing them, as he had crushed the Mahrattas six years ago, without the co-operation of the chiefs of Hindustan. His Vazīr Shāh Vālī Khān therefore sent invitations to the Emperor, to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah and to other chiefs of Northern India, calling upon them to come and pay homage to the *Shāh-i-Shāhān* [1] (50,246). Almost all, excepting the Emperor, sent *vakīls* to wait upon His Afghān Majesty (79,107C). Even Raghūnāth Rāo, who was panic stricken at the Shāh's progress, sent *'arzīs* to his court. The death of Mulhar Rāo Hulkar added to his confusion and fear, and he began to contemplate retreating to the Deccan. Shāh Ālam cast wistful looks towards one who he hoped would subdue all Hindustan for him and seat him, an Emperor at last in deed as in name, upon his throne at Delhi. But he could not nerve himself to throw off the protection of the English, especially when the Shāh was still so far from Delhi. The English were determined to thwart the designs of the Afghān king, or at least to make sure that he did not proceed further than the capital. They feared, and with good reason, that the relations they had established with the Vazīr and the Emperor would be entirely upset, if the latter joined the Shāh. They therefore asked the Vazīr and the Emperor to refrain from waiting upon the Shāh or from sending him any money, and to oppose him should he attempt to advance eastward from Delhi (29). The Rohillas, the Jāts and the Mahrattas were likewise urged to form a league against him, and the full support of the Company was assured to them. Aḥmad Shāh's victory at Panipat however had breathed a terror into the hearts of the chiefs of India; in their eyes he was invincible. Shujā'u'd-Daulah wavered: should he join the Shāh or depend upon the English ?[2] His immediate interests lay in remaining an ally of the English, and he had no wish to risk the security and power he enjoyed in his country under their protection. The Shāh was a foreigner and would not stay in the country. Besides, the English had given him a proof of their sincerity by immediately sending five battalions with artillery to help him in case the invader should attack his dominions. Shujā'u'd-Daulah therefore politely declined to assist the Shāh, alleging various pretexts, as he was anxious not to show any outward defiance to one whom he dreaded at heart for his power, as well as respected for his past favours (249-50). If the Vazīr had acted otherwise, it is doubtful whether Aḥmad Shāh Abdālī would have proved as inoffensive to the English as he did on this occasion [3]. For although

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Is harassed by the Sikhs.

The Company's attitude towards him.

Shujā'u'd-Daulah refuses to join him.

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[1] Pers. 'The king of kings', a title assumed by Aḥmad Shāh Abdālī.

[2] Col. Sir Robert Barker in a letter to the President expressed his suspicions as to the intentions of the Vazīr. *See* I. R. D., *op. cit.*, p. 89.

[3] '... After possessing himself of Lahore, he [Abdālī] is in full march ... to Delly ... the ultimate views of the conqueror extend beyond the Capital, and that seduced either by

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his avowed intention was only to punish the Sikhs, he had brought a larger force than the one with which he had overthrown the Mahrattas, a far more formidable enemy, a few years ago (12A). It is hardly possible to doubt that the rumour was true which said that Mīr Qāsim had invited him to India, and that the Shāh's object was not merely to punish the refractory Sikhs but to restore Mīr Qāsim to the throne of Murshidabad. For there is this common characteristic about the Muhammadan invaders of India. They all came to this rich country with the primary object of plunder. But in order to palliate and redeem the true nature of their mission they always gave out that they came as Defenders of the True Faith against the power of the Infidel. In 1761 the conqueror had justified his invasion by his triumph over the Mahrattas. What should be his object this time? Most likely the expulsion of the English and the restoration of an 'oppressed, fugitive and homeless' Nawab. But a great change had taken place in the political condition of India. In 1759 all the Muhammadan chiefs of Hindustan were on his side; now the most powerful of them all, Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah, stood aloof and was actually leagued with the very power whom he might have engaged in battle. The Shāh was not prepared to meet a confederacy of the English, the Vazīr and the Sikhs. He therefore gave a curt reply to Mīr Qāsim, and returned to his country (279, 1365).

Probable object of the Shah's invasion.

His failure and return.

The Sikhs now gathered more strength and captured Lahore, expelling his Hindu governor Kabulī Mal. Jasā Singh, one of their most celebrated leaders, took possession of the *ṣūbah* of Lahore, and struck rupees with the proud legend 'Coined by the grace of Khālṣājī in the country of Aḥmad conquered by Jasā Singh Kalāl'[1]. Aḥmad Shāh therefore again crossed the Indus in 1769[2] to punish the Sikhs, and advanced as far as the Sutlej, the enemy again fleeing before him. But some 12,000 of his troops, dissatisfied probably with their small success hitherto, deserted him and marched back to Kabul. The defection of such numbers compelled him to retrace his steps homeward, still harassed by the Sikhs until he had passed the Chenab (1499).

Invades India for the last time.

Meanwhile the royal court at Allahabad was seething with faction and intrigue. The Emperor's dislike of the Vazīr was of long standing. He could not forget his own former subjection, the hopes of freedom and the promises of aggrandizement held out to him after Buxar, all suddenly to be shattered by Clive, who restored to the Vazīr his titles and his territories; and now the Vazīr was the sworn ally of his

Intrigues in Shāh 'Ālam's Court

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the Intrigues of Cossim Ally or tempted by the opulence of Bengal he will endeavour to penetrate to our Frontiers and even to possess himself of these Provinces'. I. R. D., *op. cit.*, p. 88 n.

[1] *See History of the Punjab* (London, 1846), vol. i, p. 222.

[2] The year of Aḥmad Shāh's last invasion of India is generally given in histories as 1767. But the letter of the *Calendar* goes to prove that he came to India for the last time in 1769. Historians say that Aḥmad Shāh in his last invasion avoided Lahore and came only as far as the Sutlej, and that his retreat was harassed by the Sikhs. This description does not apply to the Shāh's expedition of 1767, when, by the testimony of the numerous letters of the *Calendar* (16A, 20, 36, 108, 213-15, 513), he had at least twice entered Lahore, and had proceeded much further than the Sutlej. The events described by the historians as taking place in the Shāh's last invasion of India, tally mostly, as appears from letter 1499 of the *Calendar*, with those which happened in 1769.

conquerors, the English. For the Vazīr then he could only nourish the bitterest hate, and to hate was added the suspicion that he was again trying to get the Emperor into his power (1044). The Vazīr's deputy or *Nāib* at Court was Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah, a nobleman who had grown old in the service of Shāh 'Ālam's father, and now enjoyed the confidence of the son. The *Seir Mutaqherin* names two others, Ḥusam-u'd-Dīn Khān and Raja Rāmnāth, men 'of mean capacity and vile inclinations', to whom the Emperor lent a willing ear. These men were for ever playing on his vanity, whispering to him to cut himself loose from the Company, hinting at treachery on the part of the Vazīr, prompting him to leave Allahabad and to restore in Delhi the fallen splendours of the Mughal Empire. The Emperor sent representations to the Governor asking that Munīru'd-Daulah might be made Vazīr, and even commanded Shujā'u'd-Daulah to hand over to his favourite the patent of his office, the artillery and the magazine. Shujā'u'd-Daulah countered by denying the Nawab's claim even to be his deputy at Court at all [1]. Munīru'd-Daulah was summoned to Calcutta, and the Emperor was prevailed upon to adopt a less actively hostile attitude towards the Vazīr. It was particularly necessary, for all his real insignificance, to preserve at least the forms of deference and the address of a subject in approaching the Emperor, since it happened that at that moment the Company wanted to use his name to crush Niẓām 'Alī Khān, the *Ṣūbahdār* of the Deccan [2]. At the Vazīr's suggestion they induced him—the Emperor could hardly decline—to send them a royal *farmān*, deposing Niẓām 'Alī from his viceroyalty, and a blank space was left for the Governor to fill in the name of the successor whom he might choose (670,790). **Vol. II.**

But Shujā'u'd-Daulah was growing impatient at the favours shewn by the Emperor to Munīru'd-Daulah at his expense. He was ambitious to control the court at Allahabad, and to extend the frontiers of his dominions by annexing certain districts of Bundelkhand, which he asserted formerly belonged to him; and to this end he sought the help of the Company (487, 506, 587). Seeing that an attack on the Raja of Bundelkhand would involve them in a war with the neighbouring Mahrattas, they declined (524). Whereupon Shujā'u'd-Daulah resolved to act on his own and to raise an army large enough to cow the Emperor into submission, and perhaps seize Bundelkhand as well (684, 1044). The removal of the Company's troops from his territories, necessitated by the war in the Deccan, gave him an obvious plea for carrying out his project (597, 599, 618). He not only began to increase his army, but to manufacture fire-arms [3]; and in order to justify his action offered to fight for the Company against the Niẓām (684). Colonel Smith who commanded the army at Allahabad was filled with misgivings at the Vazīr's military preparations, and sent repeated warnings to the Council at Calcutta, hinting

Shujā'u'd-Daulah's military preparations.

[1] *See* I. R. D., *op. cit.*, pp. 121-3.

[2] *See* I. R. D., *op. cit.*, p. 130. Letter from the Select Committee to the Madras Government, 27 April 1768.

[3] 'To enable you to form the most perfect idea of the military improvements of the Nabob Sujahal Dowlah I send you by Captain Parvis, a musket which was one of his first attempts; and also a lock, which is of his last and best manufacture'. Letter from the Council to the Court of Directors, 26 Sept. 1768, *cit.* Verelst, *View of the English Government of Bengal* (London, 1772) Appendices.

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at the same time that Shujā'u'd-Daulah contemplated hostilities against the Company itself [1]. The Governor strongly protested to the Vazīr, and at last, much against his will, Shujā'u'd-Daulah was forced to reduce his army to 'a bare minimum', when he was made to enter into a fresh treaty with the Company on 28 November 1768[2]. A settlement with the Vazīr being thus concluded, the Council resolved to help him to establish his prestige and influence at the royal court. The Vazir suggested that the payment of the Bengal tribute to the Emperor should be stopped until he himself was actually invested with the *Vizārat* (1185). This suggestion it seems was practically accepted by the Governor, as we find the Emperor constantly complaining of the delay in sending the tribute (1275, 1285).

The Company forces him to reduce his army.

Emperor and Vazīr reconciled.

At last the Emperor saw the futility of his opposition to the Vazīr, who for his part was prevailed upon by the Governor to do his best to please the Emperor. Gen. Barker was sent to Fyzabad to bring about a reconciliation[3] (1366). The Vazīr agreed to march with the Emperor to Delhi and reconquer the territories which had been usurped by rebels, such as Jāts and others. He was also required not to leave the Royal Presence for two years. The Emperor on his side, promised to appoint Shujā'u'd-Daulah minister for life, and assign to him 'a moiety of all the territories that will be conquered, for his expenses in the royal service, excepting the *K͟hālisah Sharīfah* and what will be required for His Majesty's personal expenses' (1366). At the same time the Council at Calcutta were determined that however empty these professions of friendship might be, they were not going to risk any repetition of the events that led to Buxar, and obliged the Vazīr to make a separate contract with the Governor 'calling on the most High God and the holy *Imāms* to witness that whatever ascendency he may gain over the Emperor's heart shall always be employed in promoting the welfare and reputation of the English *Sardārs*' (1368). But whatever ascendency he gained was soon to be lost. He was forced to side with the Council in dissuading the Emperor from returning to Delhi. They foresaw, what the event proved true, that once out of their protection he would fall into the hands of the Mahrattas, and the consequences of that might be serious. Even Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah was at length convinced that it was more profitable to consult the will of the English Governor at Fort William than to humour the caprices of an exile (1462). This change in his attitude very nearly cost him his life. The Emperor was indignant, and a conspiracy was set on foot to assassinate this new friend of the Company. But the Nawab alleging ill health and the weight of years, managed to get away from the Court and escaped to Calcutta, and there laid his case before the Governor. The Emperor in wrath at this fresh betrayal sent Faẓl 'Alī K͟hān to Calcutta to examine the fallen minister's accounts. But he was known to be a personal enemy of Munīru'd-Daulah's and to have had a

The disgrace and fall of Munīru'd-Daulah.

[1] Letter from Colonel R. Smith to the Council, 24 Nov. and 11 Dec. 1767.

[2] Letter from the Council to the Court of Directors, 6 Jan. 1769.

[3] Letter from the Council to the Court of Directors, 24 Mar. 1768. The reconciliation took place at Fyzabad, where the King had gone escorted by Col. Smith. Letter to the Court of Directors, 6 Apr. 1769.

hand in the plot on his life; the Governor marked his displeasure of the Emperor's treatment of the Nawab by refusing the *khil'at* he had sent and dismissing the Khān (1673, 1687). **Vol. II.**

It will be remembered that at this time Orissa, which separates the two presidencies of Fort William and Fort St George, was in the possession of the Mahrattas. Ever since the disturbances created by Shēo Bhat in Midnapore in 1761 the Company had been meditating how they might annex the country to Bengal and link up their settlements. When Shēo Bhat was replaced by Chumna Sau and then by Bhavānī Paṇḍit in the Governorship of Orissa, he rebelled against his master Jānūjī Bhōnsla, the Raja of Nagpur[1]. His rebellion afforded the Company a good opportunity for interference. On a plea of helping the Raja the Governor sent a force into Orissa to quell Shēo Bhat, although at the same time he claimed the cost of the expedition from the Mahrattas (77). Jānūjī, who had been anxious to extort the *chauth* of Bengal from the Company, if possible by conciliatory means, apparently took no offence at help so gratuitously thrust upon him. In 1767 he sent his *vakīl* Udaipūrī Gusain to Calcutta, while the Company sent Mīr Zainu'l-'Ābidīn to the Raja for the purpose of bringing about a 'settlement' between the courts of Nagpur and Murshidabad (77). Verelst, the Governor, Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah, Muḥammad Riẓā Khān and the *vakīls* of the parties met in conference at Murshidabad (418). It was proposed on behalf of the Company and the *Nāẓim* that they should pay 13 *lākhs* of rupees every year to the Raja as the *chauth* of Bengal, provided the Raja ceded Orissa to the Company (712). This sum was to be due from the date of the above settlement, and the Raja was to give up all claim to the arrears (709, 712). The Company's *vakīl*, Mīr Zainu'l-'Ābidīn, contended that the old treaty concluded between 'Alī Vardī Khān and Raghūjī Bhōnsla provided that 12 *lākhs* of rupees were to be paid to the Raja of Nagpur as the *chauth* of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, and so if the Mahrattas wanted the stipulated *chauth*, they were bound by the treaty itself to return Orissa to the *Ṣūbahdār* of Bengal (712). The Raja vehemently objected to this interpretation, and maintained that the stipulated amount was payable to him only on account of Bengal and Behar. But in the hopes of coming to an agreement with the English, he appointed Sambhājī Ganēsh *Ṣūbahdār* of Orissa in place of Bhavānī Paṇḍit, hoping that as the latter was known to the English, his influence with them might bring about a settlement (892). The new *Ṣūbahdār* offered the services of 50,000 Mahratta horse to the Company in time of need, if the latter agreed to pay the *chauth* without insisting on the cession of Orissa (892). The Governor informed the Raja that the utmost which the English would agree to was to pay 3 years' *chauth* in ready money, if the Raja consented to give up the province. Of this sum half was to be paid at once and the other half as soon as the Mahrattas evacuated the province (1153). Jānūjī Bhōnsla accepted the terms on condition that the treaty should be signed and sealed by the King of England himself, so that it might be

The Raja of Nagpur renews his demand for the *chauth*.

[1] *See* A. Stirling, *An Account of Orissa Proper or Cuttack* (London, 1820), p. 140.

Vol. II. impossible for the Company to violate it (1166). Three long years had been dragged out with wearisome and vain negotiations[1], when in May 1769 the Pēshwā Mādhū Rāo attacked the Raja Jānūjī, who had allied himself with the Pēshwā's uncle and enemy, Raghūnāth Rāo. The Raja through Sambhājī Ganēsh, his *Ṣūbahdār* of Cuttack appealed to the English for help (1388). This time it was their turn to play the Mahratta game. The Governor hesitated; the Company were not going to embroil themselves with the Pēshwā on behalf of a doubtful friend. Finally he replied, that as hostilities between the Raja and the Pēshwā were about to come to an end, there was hardly any need for the Company's arms (1393). He consented however to send an English *vakīl* to Cuttack to negotiate a treaty (1477). Peace was concluded between the Raja and Mādhū Rāo, but the refusal of the English to help Jānūjī caused him deep resentment. His *Ṣūbahdār* in Orissa intimated to the Governor that there was no longer any need to send an English *vakīl* to Cuttack, as the services of Udēpūrī Gusāin and Mr Alleyn, the Residents at Fort William and Cuttack respectively, were sufficient (1633). He also refused to allow English troops to pass through Cuttack on their way from Madras to Bengal, on the plea that the English troops might plunder the country which was already suffering from scarcity (1708).

Outside the political sphere the most notable events in Verelst's administration, as recorded in the letters, were a survey of Bengal, Behar and the English districts contiguous to the sea-shore of Orissa (95, 725), the reform of the currency, and the appointment of Englishmen as *amīns* to supervise the collection of the revenue.

The Survey of Bengal.

The survey was conducted by Captain James Rennell[2]. He had already been working for three years, when on 1 January 1767 he was appointed Surveyor General of Bengal, with four men, *viz.*, Captains John Adams and Lewis Dugloss, Lt. Carter and Ensign William Richards to assit him[3].

Another Officer named Portsmouth was deputed to survey the districts along the coast o lOrissa. As the work was neither safe nor easy in days when the country had no good communications and was inhabited by a people of en hostile[4] to the foreigners, *parvānahs* were issued to the *gumāshtahs* of the *Faujdārs*, the *'Āmils* and *Zamīndārs* of the *ṣūbah*, enjoining them to give the surveyors every possible help.

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[1] 'I once flattered myself that [Jānujī Bhōnsla] would have acceded to a treaty for the cession of Orissa, but his evasive and artful behaviour has convinced me that the Mahrattas will never desert their old and characteristic manners. After 3 years of negotiation, much trouble and some expense, no progress has been made towards a conclusion; on the contrary he has studiously avoided any declaration of his sentiments'. Verelst's letter to the Council, 16 December 1769.

[2] *See* Major F. C. Hirst, *The Surveys of Bengal* (Calcutta, 1917); C. R. Markham, *Memoir on The Indian Surveys* (London, 1871).

[3] *See* Rennell's own Journals published in *Memoirs of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* (Calcutta, 1910), vol. iii.

[4] On one of his surveying tours Rennell himself was dangerously wounded by some *Sanyasis*. 'In this skirmish' he says, 'I had the misfortune to be surrounded by the enemy and received several cuts from their broad swords one of which threatened my death'.

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The Currency Reform.

The export of Bengal manufactures by the several European Companies far exceeded their actual investments. The English East India Company exported goods worth large sums of money, and purchased wholly with the revenue of the country, but without importing a single ounce of silver. Foreign Companies likewise bought their goods with money received from private parties, who took bills for the amount upon the respective Companies in Europe. The influx of bullion, which in former times exceeded a million sterling, soon ceased altogether, while even larger sums were exported from the circulating specie of Bengal. In the five years immediately following the grant of the *Dīvānī* the sums exported in silver by the East India Company alone amounted to £1,284,008 sterling. A large amount of silver was also sent annually to China for investment. Over and above this the Bengal tribute paid to the Emperor year by year drained away 26 *lākhs* of silver coin[1]. The evil could have been remedied, indeed it would never have arisen, if the trade of Bengal with other countries could have continued and all the manufactures of Bengal had not been absorbed by the various European Companies[2]. To meet the situation caused by this shortage of coin various measures were thought of (649). Muḥammad Riẓā Khān suggested that, in the first place, the complicated and fluctuating condition of the currency system prevailing in the country should be made uniform and simple. With this end in view he proposed that (1) the coins of Murshidabad, Patna, Dacca and Calcutta should be made uniform in value, (2) a just assay should be made of the intrinsic value of each of the various kinds of rupees coined outside Bengal, that had found their way into the circulation of the province, (3) the *battah* or rate of exchange on them should be fixed, (4) and the coin should be made current throughout the country (676). The Company proposed, as an immediate measure, to meet the difficulty by reforming and enlarging the gold currency of the country. In the beginning of the year 1769 the Council framed certain regulations for the purpose, fixing, among other things, the weight and standard[3] of a gold *mohar* and replacing the Indian Officers of the *Nāẓim's* Government at the mints of Murshidabad, Patna and Dacca by their own men. They obtained at the same time a *farmān* from the Emperor prohibiting the export of money from the country, and requested him to sanction capital punishment for all those who were found guilty of debasing or counterfeiting coins[4]. The Vazīr was also asked to exact the same penalty in his own dominions.

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[1]It was estimated that Mīr Qāsim carried off from 3 to 5 *karōrs* of rupees in jewels and specie. *See* letter to the Court of Directors, 26 September 1768.

[2]*See* Verelst, *op. cit.*, Appendices.

[3]Of the known standards of gold in Hindustan, that of Muḥammad Shāh approached nearest to the proportional value of gold and silver at the time. It was therefore adopted as possessing a two-fold advantage : it was the best suited for the purposes of exchange and a general currency in commerce ; the traditions of long use had given it a value at once real and sentimental in the minds of the people. *Public dept proceedings*, Consultation 17 June 1769.

[4]Hitherto the debasement of coins was prevented by the process of introducing the *ṣarrāfs*, for which an annual *batta* or discount was established on the *sicca* rupees or rupees of the current year. At the expiration of three years when these *sicca* rupees, then called

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The appointment of English *amīns*.

With the English assumption of the *Dīvānī* the appointment of English *amīns* could not long be deferred. For the revenue which they received the Company were wholly at the mercy of the various *Zamīndārs* and *Rajas* who collected it ; they had no means of knowing what the true account should be, what the actual sums collected were, nor how much of it all actually reached them. They saw on the other hand that the revenue was falling, and that in the richest country in all India lands were being thrown out of cultivation. The ryot had no security for the enjoyment of the fruits of his labour, bled and oppressed as he was by the native *'amalah* of the *Zamīndārs* and *tahsīldārs* on the one hand and the *gumāshtahs* of the Company's servants on the other.

Accordingly the Council decided to appoint English *amīns* in all the important districts to supervise the revenue administration (1580). They were to work under the direction of the Resident at Murshidabad, and had their duties defined (1580). But at the suggestion of the *Nāib Nāzim*, Muḥammad Riẓā Khān, the scheme was not introduced until the beginning of the ensuing year, 1770.

Vol. III.

Close of the first phase of British Rule in Bengal.

The third volume of the Calendar embraces the two years during which John Cartier was Governor of Fort William. He was the last in the line of Governors whose period of administration may be called the first phase of British rule in Bengal. By this time the English East India Company had crushed its most dangerous rival, the French ; and of the other European Companies none had any possessions left in India, which could either be reckoned as very valuable at the time or promised to be formidable in the future.

The Country Powers.

The chief independent native powers were the Mahrattas and the Niẓām of Hyderabad, both in the south, while a third had just risen in Mysore under a military adventurer named Ḥaidar 'Alī.

The Mahrattas.

The Mahrattas were now but a remnant of the confederacy which was broken at Panipat in 1761. Of its chief members the Hulkar of Indore, the Sindhia of Gwalior and the Gaikwar of Baroda still virtually acknowledged the headship of the Pēshwā, while Jānūjī Bhōnslā of Nagpur had broken away from him and was ruling in complete independence over most of the territories now comprising the Central Provinces and Orissa. The territories ruled by the Mahrattas extended to the borders of the Punjab, Oudh and Bengal in the north, and to Mysore,

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Sanwat ('sunats'), passed at $\frac{111}{116}$ the original denomination, they were carried to the mint by the *ṣarrāfs*, who received them back recoined and raised to their full value, deducting the expense and duties of coinage amounting to something more than 2 per cent. By this operation the *ṣarrāfs* gained nearly $\frac{3}{116}$ upon the value of the coin every third year. So while all other coins were debased the *sicca* rupee seldom lost anything of its original purity ; it was to the interest of the *ṣarrāfs* to see that it did not.

Jagath Sēth, the great banker and principal *ṣarrāf*, when first consulted, strongly urged the necessity of allowing an annual discount on the gold *mohars*, as had hitherto been the custom upon the *sicca* rupees. The neglect of this advice was perhaps the greatest error in the scheme for the introduction of a gold coinage which the Company first attempted in 1766. Yet the Directors having frequently condemned the discount in their letters to Bengal, the Council could not adopt it in a new coinage, even to ensure success. The only alternative means of preventing the debasement and counterfeiting of the coins was to impose a severe penalty ; and so we find the Company asking the Emperor to prescribe capital punishment for all who were guilty of the offence. *See* Verelst, *op. cit.*, ch. iii.

the Niẓām's dominions and the Northern Circars in the south. The Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea marked their eastern and western limits respectively.

Of the minor states only those of the Rohillas, the Jāts and the Sikhs need be mentioned here, as having any bearing upon the letters calendared in this volume.

The Rohillas.

The country of the Rohillas lay between Delhi and the lower ranges of the Himalayas, with the city of Bareilly as its capital. It was ruled by several more or less independent chiefs, the most prominent of whom were Aḥmad Khān Bangash, Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān and Najību'd-Daulah. The territories of Aḥmad Khān Bangash bordered on the district of Kora to the westward, and lay chiefly between the Ganges and the Jumna. His capital was Farrukhabad. The country ruled over by Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān touched the western limits of Shujā'u'd-Daulah's dominions and lay on the north bank of the Ganges, excepting Etawah the capital and some *parganas* on the Jumna. The possessions of Najību'd-Daulah were bounded by Sirhind on the west, and from the Jumna about 14 miles east of Delhi took a sweep eastward and then north of the Ganges, meeting at last the frontiers of Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān.

The Jāts.

The Jāt country lay between Agra and Jaipur. It included Agra and extended westward to within a few miles of Delhi, and eastward to the neighbourhood of Etawah. Its capital was Bharatpur, a fortress long considered impregnable.

The Sikhs.

The Sikhs ruled in the Punjab where a confederacy of their chiefs had been formed under the name of *miṣls*[1].

Delhi.

Delhi and its immediate neighbourhood were under the regency of the Rohilla chief, Najību'd-Daulah, whom Aḥmad Shāh Abdālī had left in charge of the Capital. The Emperor's step-mother Zīnat Maḥal and his son Prince Javān Bakht both resided there.

The English.

The English, we have already seen, had not only become virtual partners with the *Nāẓim* in the sovereignty of Bengal and Behar, in their capacity of the Emperor's *Dīvān,* but were the real and sole rulers of the country. They had also acquired possession of the Northern Circars under a royal *sanad,* and the Nawab of the Carnatic owed allegiance more to them than to his nominal master, the Niẓām. Besides these possessions they owned several 'factories' chiefly on the coasts of India, and their garrisons at Chunar and Allahabad extended their prestige and power to the very heart of Hindustan[2].

The political condition of India.

Such was the distribution of political India when John Cartier succeeded Verelst as Governor at Fort William in Bengal. But the condition of the country was anything but settled. There was perpetual war between the various states which had sprung from the ruins of the dissolving Mughal empire, as first one adventurer and then another managed to gather enough power to subdue his neighbours. Personal loyalty as between ruler and ruled was of course unknown, while the peasant and the cultivator enjoyed neither protection from outside

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[1] ***Miṣl.*** Arab. *lit.* similitude. The confederacies were of 'the same' or 'like' station and occupations.

[2] Besides these garrisons, some troops under an English Commander were stationed with the Vazīr at his own request to defend his dominions.

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The sufferings of the people.

enemies nor immunity from the ravenous officials, who extorted from them their last pice [1] in order to satisfy the greed of the hierarchy of *sardārs* as the gratification passed by degrees from the *'Āmils*, the lowest in the rank, through the *Ta'lluqdārs*, the *Zamīndārs*, the Rajas and the Nawabs up to the *ṣubahdār*, the real sovereign[2]. The resurgence of the Mahratta Power after Panipat and the gradual decline of some of the principal *ṣūbahs* augmented the misery and insecurity of the people. No corner of the country was secure from their depredations and the tyranny of their revenue collectors. The remark made by the French adventurer, Jean Law, to the author of the *Seir Mutaqherin* might have been applied to the whole peninsula. 'So far as I can see', said he, 'there is nothing that you could call "government" between Patna and Delhi'. These scenes of change and violence offered a marked contrast to the peace and stability which the eastern provinces of Bengal and Behar and the Northern Circars had been enjoying for some time under the administration of the English East India Company. A more terrible enemy made his appearance in the shape of a famine which carried off one-third of the population of Bengal[3].

Cartier becomes Governor.

Cartier assumed office on 26 December 1769. He immediately wrote to the Emperor at Allahabad, as was customary, professing his loyalty and allegiance to the throne. To other friendly potentates also the Governor wrote, and from them in turn he received congratulations and *nazrs*. The only hostile neighbour was the Raja Jānūjī Bhōnsla of Nagpur, who vainly persisted in his demands for the *chauth* of Bengal. But from northern India came ominous news, which seemed to threaten the union between the Emperor, the Vazīr and the Company. Mādhū Rāo Pēshwā had gathered a large Mahratta army and was marching northward, intending to reconquer the districts lost after the battle of Panipat, especially the Doab. This was not all; the Council learned that the ex-Nawab Mīr Qāsim was trying to unite the Mahrattas and other chiefs of Hindustan in a league to attack the English. He had at first been well received by the Rohillas, until Ghulām Ḥusain Khān, who had often acted as their envoy to Calcutta, persuaded them to abandon a losing cause. He next turned to the Sikhs and the Mahrattas. He also sought and obtained the support of other minor chiefs, such as the Rana of Gohad and Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān. He had assembled a following of about 15,000 horse and foot; but as he was unable to maintain his army, it began gradually to dwindle away and finally mutinied. Most of his *sardārs* including his *Bakhshī* Dān Shāh, a past master of intrigue, deserted him. In despair he appealed to the Niẓām and to Aḥmad Shāh Abdālī for help. But the latter, nine times invader of India, was now grown

The Mahratta menace.

Danger from Mīr Qāsim.

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[1] *See* L. S. O'Malley, *Cuttack* (Bengal District Gazetteers), p. 33.

[2] These were the rulers of the large provinces; though completely independent of the Emperor, they retained their old designation.

[3] 'The scene of misery that intervened and still continues, shocks humanity too much to bear description. Certain it is that in several parts the living have fed on the Dead, and the number that has perished in these provinces that have most suffered, is calculated to have been within these few months, as six is to sixteen of the whole inhabitants'. Letter from R. Becher, Resident at Murshidabad Durbar to the Committee, 2 June 1777.

old and listless, while the former shrank from engaging single-handed with an enemy, who had so effectually crushed his former ally, the French. The Company on their part prepared to meet any emergencies. They sought the friendship of the Raja of Bundelkhand, and even managed to appease the insolent Jānūjī Bhōnsla of Nagpur. Shitāb Rāy and the Raja of Benares kept the Committee at Calcutta informed of the movements of Mīr Qāsim and of the trend of events in Hindustan. But one thing was lacking : if no point was to be left unguarded, they must have an influential friend at the court at Allahabad. Of their old allies neither Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah nor Najaf Khān were now in the Emperor's favour. The Nawab had, as was said before, been dismissed and was intending to go to Mecca on a pilgrimage; while Najaf Khān had lately been removed from the *faujdārī* of Kora and Allahabad. At length however the Governor prevailed upon Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah to postpone his pilgrimage and to return to Court. He was specially enjoined to see that the Bengal tribute was not spent for purposes opposed to the Company's interests. It was not to be supposed that the Emperor would at once consent to welcome a minister but lately disgraced, even when recommended by the Committee at Calcutta. But the means of enforcing their will were ready to hand. There began to be unaccountable delays in paying the Bengal tribute; the Emperor sent repeated remonstrances: not a rupee had he received for eleven months since Munīru'd-Daulah had left Allahabad; out of the stipulated sum of 26 *lākhs* only Rs 4,75,000 had been paid during the year (1770). But each remonstrance brought only fresh excuses, until once again the Emperor was compelled to yield. It was his only hope of getting the Bengal tribute regularly and (what was almost as important) the promised English battalions to accompany him to Delhi.

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Munīru'd-Daulah recalled by the Emperor.

Shujā'u'd-Daulah had lately incurred the suspicion of the English, as he was reported by Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares, to be intriguing with Mīr Qāsim and the Mahrattas[1]. It is too much to say that he was actively conspiring against the Company, though this much is certain, that he had been communicating for some time with the Mahrattas and other chiefs of Hindustan, hoping that if fortune favoured them in the end, they would reckon him among their friends. In order to allay the suspicions of the English he went so far as to send the Governor a written protestation on the Qurān, vowing to maintain his friendship with the Company, and had even assured the Governor that there was small reason to fear Mīr Qāsim, and that the Sikhs and the Mahrattas were only trying to get money out of the ex-*Nāzim* (he had

[1] He had enlisted Frenchmen in his service, whom he declined to dismiss, although pressed by the English to do so. Different reports were sent about him to the Committee at Calcutta by Col. P. Gailliez, commanding the English troops at Allahabad, and Capt. G. Harper, commanding the troops stationed with Shujā'u'd-Daulah. While the former repeatedly warned the Committee against what he thought to be the Vazīr's intended treachery, the latter assured them that there was no reason to suspect his fidelity. Capt. Harper was stationed in the Vazīr's dominions, and had thus better opportunities of learning about his movements, while Col. Gailliez was most probably influenced by the enemies of Shujā'u'd-Daulah at Court, including the Emperor himself. The Committee were at first so alarmed that they decided to remove the magazines at Allahabad and Patna. *See* I. R. D., *op. cit.*, pp. 190, 195, 208, 221, 223, 244.

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offered them a bribe of one *karor* of rupees to help him to recover Bengal from the English), and would ultimately desert him. The Mahrattas however were not ready to face the English. Their immediate object now was the subjugation of the Rajput States. After having ravaged Jaipur and exacted ten *lākhs* of rupees from the Rajput Princes, they marched eastward; and it was rumoured that they intended to invade Bengal through Bundelkhand. The Governor wrote to the Raja of the country, offering his friendship and help and advising him to be on his guard. But the Mahrattas turned upon the Jāts. They entered their country on the invitation of Ranjīt Singh, one of the sons of Sūraj Mal, to assist him against his brother Nēval Singh in their quarrel for the regency of the infant Raja of Bharatpur. But as Ranjīt Singh failed to pay them the stipulated sum of money, they began to ravage and lay waste the dependencies of both the brothers. Ranjīt Singh seems soon to have appeased them, for shortly after they stationed garrisons in several forts in order to establish his authority throughout the land. Najību'd-Daulah, the Rohilla Regent at Delhi, terrified at their progress and dreading that they would take vengeance for their defeat at Panipat, at once opened negotiations with Visājī Paṇḍit, the commander-in-chief of the Mahratta army. He also hoped that by an alliance with the Mahrattas he would be able to restore the Emperor to his throne at Delhi, and wrote to Zīnat Maḥal, the queen-mother, to urge the Emperor to leave the protection of the British and move his standards towards Agra. In the meantime he proposed to the Mahrattas to subjugate Koil and other parts of Nēval Singh's territories lying south of the Jumna; and, 'in order to lend an air of justice to the conquest under the shadow of royal authority', sent word to Mirzā Javān Bakht, the King's son at Delhi, to join the army. To this alliance the Mahrattas also admitted Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān, who saw in their successes a hope of retrieving his own fortunes.

The progress of the Mahrattas.

Nēval Singh was impatient for battle and attacked the Mahrattas near Dig, where after an obstinate fight the Jats were totally defeated and took shelter within the walls of the town. Elated with this success, the Mahrattas adopted a peremptory attitude towards Najību'd-Daulah. Two of their chief *sardārs*, Rām Chander Ganēsh and Mādhojī Sindhiā, were opposed to any alliance with him. But as the Regent's influence was required to induce the Emperor to come and join them, the Mahrattas refrained from showing any open hostility to him for the time being. So avoiding his territories, they attacked the principality of the Afghān chief Aḥmad Khān Bangash and captured Akbarpur. Their rapid progress so much frightened the Emperor and the Vazīr that they sent their *vakīls* to them. The Emperor was now in a sore dilemma: he could not trust the Mahrattas, who had his bitterest foe Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān in their camp; nor could he refuse their invitation to march to Delhi, as they threatened to place some one else on the throne in that case. Added to this fear were the entreaties of the queen-mother, who urged him to march to the Capital with all haste, as without his protection her very life was in danger. He decided at length to leave Allahabad, and requested the Governor that four or five additional battalions might be sent to escort him to the Capital, in fulfilment of the

Shah 'Ālam's difficulties.

Company's promise. In the meantime he proposed to send Najaf Khān to Delhi to dissuade the Mahrattas from proclaiming anyone else king, and to protect his son. His *vakīl* Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān was instructed to negotiate with them for the evacuation of the fort of Delhi and to do his utmost to contract the designs of Ghāzīu'd-Dīn. **Vol. III.**

At this moment Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah arrived at Allahabad. He and the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah, lately appointed chief minister, were successful in dissuading the Emperor, at least for the time being, from setting out for Delhi. Meanwhile the Mahrattas had reached Etawah, where their advance guards were defeated by Shaikh Kabīr, the *Nāib Faujdār*. They now concluded peace with Nēval Singh. They had reasons for desiring it at this moment: they suspected duplicity on the part of Najību'd-Daulah; they were in great need of money, if they were to declare war upon the Rohillas; they were anxious to secure the neutrality of the English before they embarked on the spoliation of Hindustan. Then began a series of flattering letters accompanied by presents from the Pēshwā and his *sardārs* to the Governor at Fort William. But the design was too transparent. The Governor in reply hinted that the Mahrattas would do well not to disturb the peace of Hindustan.

Munīru'd-Daulah returns to Allahabad.

The Pēshwā tries to appease the English.

Shortly after Najību'd-Daulah died. He had been successful in keeping the Mahrattas from the Capital, and, by uniting the Rohillas in a common policy, had staved off destruction from his country. It seemed indeed that the alliance of Rohilla and Mahratta, for which he had been working, might come to pass. But his death was now the signal for the Mahratta advance; one party marched on Delhi and opened negotiations with Ẓābiṭah Khān; another began to ravage the southern districts of Aḥmad Khān's territories up to the frontiers of the Vazīr's dominions, capturing Etawah, the capital of Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān. Without a leader the Rohilla *sardārs* could agree on no common line of action. Aḥmad Khān was trying to buy off the Mahrattas; Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān was determined to fight them. The Vazīr, always hoping that the defeat of the Rohillas would add their country to his dominions, refused to help them, although he was repeatedly urged by the English to do so, on the pretext that it was unsafe for him to oppose the Mahrattas, unless the English also sent an army. The Mahrattas were quick to seize the advantage. They invaded Rohilkhand, and laid waste several districts and beseiged several towns. One of their scouting parties even pressed forward as far as the environs of Kora. After capturing Etawah in January 1771, they moved on Farrukhabad. Fresh negotiations were now opened between the Rohillas and the invaders. Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān, who was anxious from personal motives to engage the co-operation of the Rohillas, tried his best to bring about a settlement between the two parties. But the disunion of the Mahratta *sardārs* made any settlement impossible, and in despair and exasperation he departed to Ajmer and the protection of Mulhar Rāo Hulkar.

The plan of the Mahrattas was in the first place to get the Emperor into their clutches; then to summon the chiefs of Hindustan in his name to submit to their authority, and to punish all those who refused to do so. In the crowd of *sardārs*, each most active and most

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Disunion among the Mahrattas.

clamorous in his own interest, there seem to have been two parties, one headed by Takōjī Hulkar and Rām Chandar Ganēsh, and the other by Mādhōjī Sindhiā and Visājī Pandit. Both parties wanted to sell the office of *Bakhshī* of the Empire to the highest bidder. But as each wanted to get the price for it, each made an offer to a different candidate. Rām Chandar Ganēsh favoured Ẓābiṭah Khān; Visājī Paṇḍit, instigated by Mādhōjī Sindhiā, backed two candidates, Ghāzīu'd-Dīn or Aḥmad Khān. But as they began to suspect that the Emperor was more than ever reluctant to leave British protection and join them, they waived their disputes and marched on to Delhi without further ado, intending to set up, if necessary, another king on the throne, as was suggested by Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān, whom Sindhiā's party now intended to make the Vazīr of the Empire. On arriving at Sherganj, a place about four miles from Delhi, the Mahrattas sent the Emperor's *vakīl* Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān into the city, who proclaimed Shāh 'Ālam king on 7 February 1771. But when they demanded the surrender of the Fort, they were met with an obstinate refusal from the *Bēgam* Zīnat Maḥal and Qāsim 'Alī Khān, who lived there as the representative of Ẓābiṭah Khān. Upon this the Mahrattas began to bombard the Fort, which fell into their hands three days later. Leaving some troops behind to attend upon the *Shāhzādah*, to whom they paid homage, they set out for Talkatorah.

They take Delhi.

It was evident that the Mahrattas intended that their conquests in Hindustan should be permanent. As to the Vazīr, he gave up all hope of conciliating the invaders, and recalled his *vakīl* Talmuk Dās from their camp[1]. But the Emperor, who was nervously anxious to keep himself informed of their further movements, allowed his *vakīl* to continue with them in spite of repeated protests from the Company and Shujā'u'd-Daulah.

Emperor determines to march to the Capital.

The Company and the Vazīr even suspected that the Emperor himself instigated the Mahrattas to advance on the Capital, intending to follow them later. Again and again did they urge him to remain at Allahabad. General Barker had been ordered by the Committee to march with his whole army from Dinapur to help the Emperor, in case the Mahrattas encroached upon his 'demesne'; but neither the assurances of the English nor the advice of his ministers could now change the Emperor's mind. The capture of Delhi by the Mahrattas determined him to proceed to the Capital. He was mortified at the procrastination of the Committee, who had been putting off the despatch of the promised battalions on one plea or another. In one of his letters to Gen. Barker he wrote: 'We are at liberty to exalt any one of the Mahratta or Rohilla tribe, who submits to us, and punish those who do not acknowledge our authority'. In another: 'If—which God forbid!—the business [the march to Delhi] is delayed, we shall be obliged to take such steps as seem to us advisable'. Compelled by the gravity of the situation, General Barker and the Vazīr held a conference at Benares, and the latter was once more pressed to enter into an alliance with the Rohillas

[1] This he did to quiet the suspicions and gain the confidence of the English. *See* I.R.D., *op. cit.*, p. 223. Letter from Captain Harper to the Committee, Benares, 11 October 1771.

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and, if possible, with the Jāts too, so as to frustrate the designs of the Mahrattas. But it was too late. The feebleness with which the Committee at Calcutta had acted so long, as well as the jealousy that existed between the Vazīr and the Rohillas, put an alliance between them out of the question and left the Mahrattas free to do whatever they liked.

and quits Allahabad.

On 9 April 1771 the Emperor left Allahabad. He was escorted by an army headed by the Vazīr's son. The Vazīr had also helped him with men and money, a step which the Committee strongly disapproved of, and which caused them to doubt his former sincerity, when he urged the Emperor to abandon his march to the Capital. But Shujā'u'd-Daulah, as the Vazīr of the Empire, could not withhold his services from the Emperor altogether. The utmost he could do to please the Committee was not to accompany Shāh 'Ālam to Delhi, and even this he did in violation of the agreement which he had made with the Emperor in 1769. Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah also remained behind. The only friend of the Company who was allowed to follow the Imperial standard, was Najaf Khān, the ex-*Faujdār* of Kora. He had for some time been out of favour with the Emperor and was now glad of an opportunity to appease his master.

His progress.

Shāh 'Alam had gone as far as the Sarāi of Alam Chand, about 18 miles from Allahabad, when he was met by General Barker and the Vazīr. Here he granted the Vazīr the *ṣūbahdārī* of Allahabad and Kora, and wrote to the Governor to hand over the fort of Allahabad to the Vazīr. From Alam Chand he proceeded, in spite of the attempts of the Vazīr and the General to stop him, to Farrukhabad, halting at Jajmau, Bhuttore and other places. He proposed to remain at Farrukhabad until the Mahrattas evacuated the fort of Shahjahanabad. General Barker accompanied him up to the confines of the province of Kora, leaving two battalions of sepoys to attend on him.

The Company and Allahabad fort.

It was through the Company's influence that the Vazīr had obtained this fresh title : as Governor of course he must stay in his province, while the Emperor marched alone to the Capital. But when the question was raised of the actual delivery of the fort, which was garrisoned by the English sepoys, the Company temporized and finally refused. The Vazīr's own *nāib* Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah, secretly wrote to the Governor advising him to hold fast the fort, and the Company insisted that at least the English garrisons should be allowed to remain there. They protested that unless this was done, they could not defend the districts against foreign invasions. Shujā'u'd-Daulah on the other hand wanted the complete evacuation of the fort. As neither party would give way, they agreed to drop the question for the present and 'await news of affairs westward'. And sure enough, the Emperor, who was angry with the Vazir for not accompanying him, wrote to the Governor ordering the English troops to remain at Allahabad and Kora to defend them ; the Governor might take any steps he thought necessary for this purpose.

The Emperor arrived at Farrukhabad in the beginning of September 1771. Aḥmad Khān Bangash had died before his arrival. The Mahrattas had delivered up the fort of Delhi on 12 August, though

Vol. III. they were still in occupation of the town itself, and had seized the neighbouring districts belonging to Ẓābiṭah Khān. As their chief need was money, they contemplated several plans simultaneously to achieve this end. One of them was to place the *Shāhzādah* on the throne, a second was to make Ghāzīu'd-Dīn supreme in Delhi, a third was to restore Ẓābiṭah Khān to power. On 12 March 1771 they had come to an agreement with the *Shāhzādah*, under which they promised to quit the Fort. But they did not do so until they had taken two *lākhs* of rupees from the Emperor's agent. On hearing that the Fort was at last his own again, the Emperor at once resumed his march from Farrukhabad. He was met by Mādhōjī Sindhiā at Baniaganj. The Mahratta chief presented the customary *nazrs*; and the Emperor in return bestowed *khil'ats* and other favours upon him. On 26 November, escorted by Sindhiā, Shāh 'Ālam moved forward from Baniaganj to Delhi, a march destined to bring him only shame and disaster, consequences which his vanity could not foresee and which, alone in the hands of traitors, he had no power to avert.

The Mahrattas quit Delhi.

Mādhōjī Sindhiā receives the Emperor.

In Bengal the Company was preparing to take the direct administration of the country in their own hands and 'stand forth as *Dīvān*', as had long been contemplated by Clive and his successors. English *amīns* had already been appointed during the reign of Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah, who was succeeded by Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah in March 1770. But as the new system was held in abeyance, the *Nāib Nāẓim* was now directed to give effect to it. Besides the appointment of English *amīns*, a Board was established at Murshidabad to deal with all matters relating to the revenue, and Richard Becher, the Resident, was placed at its head.

The Company administer the revenue.

The following is a list of expressions, proverbs and specimens of the *Munshī* idiom that occur in the letters and are worthy of remark.

May his shadow with its beneficent influence never grow less (43).

The veil of forgetfulness will be thrown over the events of the past, and the tongues of interested and evilly disposed persons will be tied and their faces darkened (*ibid*).

When on the writer's side the garden of friendship should blossom with the buds of affection and be watered with the streams of contentment, the Governor would then stretch forth his hand to pluck a flower from the field of amity (45).

He holds the cup ready to pour but never pours (*ibid*).

The touchstone of true friendship is misfortune and danger (*ibid*).

Then will truth and falsehood be put to the test and the face of the liar [be] darkened (80).

To cherish a snake in one's bosom (94).

Worldly possessions should be sacrificed to save life, but life itself should be sacrificed to save honour (199).

A big word had fallen from the lips of a little man (280).

His Majesty will become the sport of the waves of misfortune for the rest of his life (314, 321).

The sun of friendship will shine more brightly (349). **Vol. III.**

Has received the Governor's letter, fragrant as ambergris (358).

.. Will have the honour of kissing the Royal threshold (408).

The writer's gratitude to the English *sardārs* is so great that if every hair of his head were a tongue, even then it would be impossible for him to express it (446).

A basis as strong as the walls of Alexander (467). See *Quran*, xviii, 96.

The writer has been raised from the dust and confirmed in his *zamīndārī* (486).

A burnt child dreads the fire (515).

... Who are void of wisdom and are untrue to their salt (538).

His Majesty, the Vazīr and the Governor are really one soul in three bodies (562).

The little that has been written here should be regarded as enough (592). (*Verbum satis sapienti.*)

Time is like an arrow, once shot from the bow, it can never be recalled (630, 852).

The countenances of foes will be darkened and the sincerity of friends soon shine forth (631).

Correspondence is half an interview (656, 736).

To open the door of correspondence (990).

The Royal honour which has elevated his head to the skies (932).

ERRATA

Letter 84, l. 2, *for* Najibu'd-Daulah *read* Najību'd-Daulah.
,, 141, ,, 3, *for* *Zu'l Qa'd* *read* *Ẕu'l-Qa'd.*
,, 213, ,, 10, *for* *Zu'l-Ḥijjah* *read* *Ẕu'l-Ḥijjah.*
,, 543, ,, 1, *for* Manīru'd-Daulah *read* Munīru'd-Daulah.
,, 590, ,, 10, *after* duty *supply* a comma.
,, 590, ,, 11, *after* company *supply* a comma.
,, 663, ,, 20, *for 'āmīls* read *'āmils.*
,, 702, ,, 10, *for* Jasāmu'd-Dīn *read* Ḥusāmu'd-Dīn.
,, 706, ,, 15, *after* time *supply* a comma.
,, 711, , 3, *after* thoroughly *supply* a full stop.
,, 731, ,, 5, *for* Mursidabad *read* Murshidabad.
,, 785, ,, 2, *after* Rs *delete* full stop.
,, 799, ,, 3, Khal'at *should be in italics.*
,, 804, ,, 1, *in* Munīru'd-Daulah *delete* hyphen *after* r.
,, 805, ,, 5 and 6, *after* Rs *delete* full stop.
,, 807, ,, 12, *for* treasnry *read* treasury.
Page 220, footnote line 2, *for* 9 *read* 2.
Letter 875, line 7, *after* past *supply* a full stop.
,, 893, ,, 3, *after* message *supply* a full stop.
,, 929, ,, 7, *after* Khān *delete* comma.
,, 954, refce, *for* pp.-9 *read* pp. 148—9.
,, 1026, line 1, *after* Mubāraku'd-Daulah *supply* a full stop.
Page 277, footnote line 11, *after* no *delete* full stop.
,, 280, footnote *after* Khān *supply* comma; *before* l. 3 *supply* 2.
,, 281, line 7 *for* Din *read* Dīn
,, 281, ,, 12 *for* 1758 *read* 1761

1

PERSIAN CORRESPONDENCE.

1770

Jan. 1. **1.** From the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Is glad to learn from Captain Harper that Munīru'd-Daulah has been dissuaded from proceeding to Mecca. Expresses solicitude for his return to the Presence.

Abs. R., 1767-71, no 1, pp. 144-5.

Jan. 1. **2.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẕim* of Behar. Intimates his arrival at Patna with Mr Alexander, and promises to inform the Governor regularly of affairs in the Behar province.

Abs. R., 1767-71, no 2, p. 133.

Jan. 2. **3.** From Jasārat K͟hān, *Nāib Nāẕim* of Dacca. Congratulates Mr Cartier on becoming Governor.

Abs. R., 1767-71, no 3, p. 117.

Jan. 2. **4.** To Sirāju'd-Daulah, Nawab of Arcot. Has received the Nawab's letter saying that the Governors of Bengal have been regularly corresponding with him, and requesting the writer to do the same. Replies that now that Mr Verelst has left for England, and the writer has been appointed to manage the Company's affairs and to perform the duties of the office of Governor, he will not be backward in keeping up a regular correspondence with the Nawab. Seeing that the English treat their friends with equal consideration, no matter what part of Hindustan they belong to, God willing, the friendship between the Nawab and the English will daily increase, and each party will achieve the object of its heart. Sends these few lines through Mr Holland who is proceeding [to Madras].

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 1, p. 77. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 1, p. 167. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 83.

Jan. 2.* **5.** To the King Shah Ālam. Mr Verelst, owing to the unsuitability of the climate of this country, always kept bad health, and had for some time been longing to return to his mother country. Accordingly having entrusted the administration of affairs to this humble servant of His Majesty's (the writer) he embarked for England on the 3rd *Ramazān*. It is unnecessary for the writer to give expression to his feelings of loyalty to His Majesty, as it has been shown in the past, and will, God willing, be proved in the future. It is a well known fact that treaties and alliances with the English are national and not personal obligations, and though there is a frequent change of officers in their system of government, there is no change in their attitude towards their national obligations. Desires His Majesty to consider the writer in the place of Lord Clive and Mr Verelst.

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* Jan. 10 according to the volume of copies.

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Will like his predecessors serve His Majesty faithfully and zealously. Hopes that the attendants of the throne of the Caliphate will impart the secrets of His Majesty's heart to the writer who will use his best endeavours to do whatever, in his opinion, may tend to the welfare of the house of Tīmūr. Prays to God that only such councillors as are wise and virtuous, will receive the Royal favour, seeing that the prosperity of the auspicious household, the happiness of His Majesty himself, and the satisfaction of all his well-wishers depend upon such a policy.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 2, pp. 77-8. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 2, p. 167. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 76.

Jan. 2.* **6.** To the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Intimates his appointment to the office of Governor, and desires the Vazīr to correspond with him in the same way as he did with Mr Verelst.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 3, pp. 78-9. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 3, p. 167. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 89.

Jan. 3. **7.** From the Vazīr. Requests that Captain Harper's battalion may continue to remain with the writer.

Abs. R., 1767-71, no 5, p. 145.

Jan. 5. **8.** From Najaf Khān, *Faujdār* of Kora. Congratulates Mr Cartier on becoming Governor.

Abs. R., 1767-71, no 4, p. 131.

Jan. 8.* **9.** To Sambhājī Ganēsh, *Ṣūbahdār* of Orissa. Intimates his appointment to the office of Governor, and desires the addressee to correspond with him in the same way as he did with Mr Verelst.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 4, p. 79. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 4, p. 168. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 92.

Jan. 8.* **10.** To Jasārat Khān, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Dacca. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 5, pp. 79-80. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 5, p. 168. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 76.

Jan. 9. **11.** From Tilōk Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a present of shawls.

Abs. R., 1767-71, no 6, p. 138.

Jan. 12.* **12.** To Tilōk Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Has received his congratulatory *nazr* of five gold mohurs and nine rupees. Intimates that the writer has been appointed Governor and desires the addressee to look upon him as his friend, and engage himself in the management of the affairs of his *zamīndārī*, with his mind at rest. Desires him also to inform him of all that goes on in his *zamīndārī*, without ceremony.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 6, p. 80. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 6, p. 168. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 84.

* Jan. 10 according to the volume of copies.

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Jan. 12.* **13**. To Umī Chand, *Dīvān* of Burdwan. Acknowledges the receipt of his congratulatory *nazr* of two gold mohurs and five rupees, and intimates that he has been appointed Governor.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 7, p. 80. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 7, p. 168. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 73.

Jan. 13. **14**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. While two boats belonging to Mr Taylor and laden with clarified butter, were coming from Monghyr towards Calcutta, they were detained at Rajmahal, as they did not carry any *dastak*. Mr Taylor, though not a servant of the Company's, is a man of great importance. Troubles the Khān therefore to direct the *Faujdār* of Rajmahal to release the boats without delay. This will greatly please the writer.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 9, p. 81.

Jan. 14. **15**. From the King. Approves of the management of the Bengal tribute being entrusted to Raja Shitāb Rāy; sets forth the embezzlements of Munīru'd-Daulah, the late manager, and desires that his account may be examined and the sum due to the *Sarkār* exacted from him.

Abs. R., 1767-71, no 7, pp. 117-18.

Jan. 14. **16**. The King to Mr Verelst. To the same effect as the foregoing, adding that should Munīru'd-Daulah delay settling the accounts and offer excuses, he is to be dispatched to the Presence to render an account in person.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 8, p. 1. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 118.

Jan. 14. **17**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Is never wanting in diligent attention to the affairs of the *Sarkār*, but such is the scarcity of grain in this province that people are dying of hunger in the streets of Patna at the rate of fifty per day. Has been informed that the sufferings of the population in the districts are even more acute. When the writer represented the distress of this province to Mr Verelst, he promised to dispatch 40,000 maunds of rice from Dacca to feed the troops at Bankipur. As this supply has not yet arrived, the writer requests the Governor to see that it is despatched with all possible speed, so that the troops may not consume the local produce, which is insufficient even for the support of the inhabitants. To the poor such a supply would be an immense relief and may do much to lessen the number of deaths. On the 5th *Ramaẓān*, the writer set out in company with Mr Alexander to survey the province. Will go first to Shahabad, as it is one of the most extensive and important *sarkārs*. Will give an account of their proceedings later. Assures the Governor that he will, to the utmost of his power, labour for the advantage of the *Sarkār*, the good of the country, and the comfort of the ryots.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 9, p. 1. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 133.

Jan. 14. **18**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. After staying a few days in the *parganah* Phulwari and regulating the business of the *Sarkār* in that quarter, the writer and Mr Alexander proceeded on the

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10th to the *zil'a* of Shahabad, where they will apply effectual remedies to the distress of the country. Will give full details later.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 10, p. 1. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 133.

Jan. 16.* **19.** To Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. Has been informed that Jīt Singh, son of Raja Hindū Pat, was offended with his father and rebelled against him, and that he has now come to Benares and is staying with the addressee. Has also been informed that the addressee encourages Jīt Singh in his hostility to his father and fills his heart with vain and idle expectations. The addressee is fully aware how strong is the bond of friendship existing between Raja Hindū Pat and the English chiefs, and that to kindle the flame of enmity between father and son is condemned by every religion. Therefore having regard to his name and credit, it seems proper that the addressee should immediately set about to reconcile the two parties, and cease giving countenance to Jīt Singh, as it is calculated to wreck the Raja's happiness, credit and fortune.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 10, pp. 81-2. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 8, p. 168. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 84.

Jan. 16.† **20.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received the Raja's letter with a congratulatory *naẓr* of twenty-one gold mohurs. Intimates that Mr Verelst departed for England on Monday the 3rd *Ramaẓān*, and that the writer has been entrusted with the office of Governor. Desires that the Raja should look upon the writer as his friend, engage himself in the affairs of Behar with his mind at rest, and inform the writer of whatever happens in that province.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 8, pp. 80-1. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 9, p. 168. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 85.

Jan. 16.* **21.** To the Sēṭhs Khush-Ḥāl Chand and Udey Chand. Acknowledges the receipt of a congratulatory *naẓr* of five gold mohurs sent by the Sēṭhs, and offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 11, p. 82. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 10, p. 168. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 92.

Jan. 17. **22.** To Raja Rājballabh, *Pēshkār* of the *Khāliṣah*. Acknowledges the receipt of a congratulatory *naẓr* of two gold mohurs sent by the Raja, and offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 16, pp. 83-4.

Jan. 18.‡ **23.** To Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Desires him to procure workmen for the new fort as he did for the French when they were digging their ditch; and to send the workmen to Calcutta. Their wages will be the same as they received from the French.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 12, pp. 82-3. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 11, p. 169. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 74.

* Jan. 13 according to the volume of copies.
† Jan. 10 according to the volume of copies.
‡ Jan. 16 according to the volume of copies.

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Jan. 20. **24.** From the King. Seeing that the Governor, the strength of the arm of the Empire, often recommended His Majesty to appoint the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah to the full and entire administration of the Royal House; and seeing that the Vazīr is a loyal servant without deceit, His Majesty, taking his merits and the Governor's representations into his august consideration, and believing that without the abilities of the Vazīr, the grandeur and respect of the crown will never be upheld, has on this day, which is the 9th of the moon of *Ramaẓān*, invested him with the dress of office and committed the arrangement and disposal of all the affairs of the Empire to his hands. The Vazīr has made earnest and pressing representations on the subject of Munīru'd-Daulah, and His Majesty has left that point to the Vazīr's determination. As His Majesty considers the Governor the real well-wisher of the sublime *Sarkār*, he has mentioned these particulars for His Excellency's information.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 11, pp. 1, 2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 118.

Jan. 20. **25.** From the Vazīr. His Majesty having thought proper to dispatch Ḥusāmu'd-Dīn 'Alī K͟hān [to Faizabad] and to send repeated summonses to the writer to repair to his Presence, the writer obeyed and was honoured with an audience. 'Yesterday' the 9th of *Ramaẓān*, His Majesty was pleased to invest him with the dress of office and authority over all the affairs of his Royal House. Mr Verelst repeatedly pressed this matter in his addresses to the King, and proposed likewise to the writer that he should enter on the executive duties and active management of the Royal House. Now that His Majesty has graciously remembered the writer, he has consented. Some time ago, the writer informed Mr Verelst of His Majesty's desire to see him (the writer) in his presence. Having at length obtained that honour, he informs his friend the Governor of this because of the close and inseparable connection which subsists between them, their lives, fortunes and reputation. Has further interceded with His Majesty for Munīru'd-Daulah's pardon, and His Majesty has in this affair also allowed the decision to rest with the writer. Refers the Governor to Captain Harper's letter for particulars.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 12, p. 2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 145.

Jan. 20. **26.** From Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad K͟hān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Has received the Governor's letter desiring him to render assistance in procuring coolies for the new fort at Calcutta in the same way as he assisted the French in digging their ditch; and to encourage the coolies as he did on the former occasion. Replies that at the time when the French were employed on that work, he did not hold the office of *Faujdār*; that the coolies who were hired for filling up [? digging] the ditch, received six *sikkah* rupees per month, and that if the Governor agreed to give them the same wages, he would use his best endeavours to procure a number of coolies and dispatch them immediately to Calcutta.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 13, p. 3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

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Jan. 20.* 27. To the Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah. As the house of the writer's brother the Nawab [at Calcutta] lies vacant, he is requested to permit Munīru'd-Daulah Riẓā Qulī Khān Bahādur Nādir Jang to occupy it. Munīru'd-Daulah is suffering great inconvenience at the house where he is staying at present.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 13, p. 83. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 12, p. 169. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 93.

Jan. 21. 28. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Sends a present of apples.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 14, p. 3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 133.

Jan. 21. 29. From Raja Mahindar (Dūlab Rām), *Dīvān* of Murshidabad. Sends a present of shawls.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 15, p. 3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 139.

Jan. 21. 30. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Intimates his arrival at the City [Murshidabad].

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 16, p. 3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 124.

Jan. 22. 31. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. 'To-day' which is the 9th of *Ramaẓān*, a paper with the following news arrived from Akbarabad. Qāsim 'Alī Khān [Mīr Qāsim] who resided at Atarchendi, had for some time maintained a correspondence with the Rānā of Gohad, whose answers were full of expressions of encouragement and promises of support, and who earnestly pressed Mīr Qāsim to repair to Gohad. Mīr Qāsim transmitted to the Nawab Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān these particulars together with a letter full of the utmost sentiments of his heart. Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān wrote to Mīr Qāsim desiring him immediately to quit Atarchendi and promising to meet him as soon as he had crossed the river Jumna. Mīr Qāsim accordingly set out from Atarchendi on the 17th *Sha'bān* and arrived on the 27th on the other side of the river Jumna opposite the ferry of Raj Ghat at Akbarabad, accompanied by about a thousand attendants.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 17, p. 3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 134.

Jan. 22. 32. From Raja Mahindar, *Dīvān* of Murshidabad. Congratulates Mr Cartier on becoming Governor and sends a *nazr* of five gold mohurs.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 18, p. 3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 139.

Jan. 22.* 33. To Tilōk Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Acknowledges the receipt of two shawls sent by the Raja by the hands of his *vakīl* Gaurī Malik.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 14, p. 83. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 13, p. 169. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 84.

Jan. 22.† 34. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the Khān's letter intimating his arrival at Murshidabad. Is glad to learn the news.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 15, p. 83. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 14, p. 169. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 78.

* Jan. 16 according to the volume of copies.
† Jan. 17 according to the volume of copies.

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Jan. 23. **35**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Encloses a Royal *shuqqah* in reply to Mr Verelst's *'arzī* on the subject of the writer's appointment to the management of the Bengal tribute; and says that he will later on depict the situation of the country as observed in the course of his tour through it in company with Mr Alexander.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 19, p. 4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 134.

Jan. 23. **36**. The King to Mr Verelst. Expresses satisfaction at Mr Verelst's compliance with Raja Shitāb Rāy's acceptance of the management of the Royal tribute agreeably to His Majesty's wishes.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 20, p. 4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 118.

Jan. 23.* **37**. To Raja Mahindar [Dūlab Rām], *Dīvān* of Murshidabad. Acknowledges the receipt of some warm cloth sent by the Raja by the hands of Rām Sēvak, and offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 17, p. 84. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 15, p. 169. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 86.

Jan. 23.† **38**. To Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Has received the Khān's letter saying that workmen cannot be had for less than a monthly rate of Rs 6 per man. Is surprised to hear this, for the workmen from Murshidabad are satisfied with Rs 4 per man in spite of the greater distance they have come from and of the great scarcity that prevails at Calcutta. Desires the Khān to try to procure workmen at a monthly rate of Rs 4 per man and send them to Calcutta.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 18, p. 84. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 16, p. 169. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 74.

Jan. 24. **39**. From Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Has already informed the Governor that coolies can be got at a monthly wage of 6 *sikkah* rupees per man, but has received no reply. Has postponed employing any coolies until he hears from the Governor.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 21, p. 4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

Jan. 24.† **40**. To Sambhājī Ganēsh, *Ṣūbahdār* of Orissa. Intimates that Mr Carter is setting out for Nilgiri for the purpose of surveying that territory, and requests the addressee not to molest him in any way, but to direct the *zamīndārs* of those parts to afford him every assistance.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 19, p. 85. Trans. R and I., 1770, no 17, p. 169. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 92.

Jan. 24.† **41**. To the *Faujdārs* of the territory extending from Calcutta to Nilgiri. Enjoins them all not to molest Mr Carter in any way, but to guard him carefully in their respective districts in order that he may reach his destination safely.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 20, p. 85. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 18, p. 169. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 75.

* Jan. 17 according to the volume of copies.
† Jan. 18 according to the volume of copies.

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Jan. 25. **42.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Sends a present of apples.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 22, p. 4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 134.

Jan. 26. **43.** To the King. Has been honoured with his two *shuqqahs*, one respecting Munīru'd-Daulah's embezzlements and the other intimating that the Vazīr has been entrusted with the management of the auspicious household. The writer had great hopes that the representations of Mr Verelst, backed by the repeated entreaties of the Vazīr, would succeed in restoring Munīru'd-Daulah to the Royal favour, and that the machinations of designing people would end in failure. But these things have not come to pass and the representations of His Majesty's true well-wishers have not been listened to. It appears to the writer that the fact of Munīru'd-Daulah's being absent from the Court is responsible for the increase of the power of designing people whose number is considerable, and the decrease of the influence of His Majesty's true well-wishers who are unfortunately so few. It must be evident to His Majesty that when a frequent change of ministers is injurious to the most firmly established state, how serious must be the consequences of such a policy to a state in which order has just been evolved out of the greatest chaos. Munīru'd-Daulah is ready to answer every charge brought against him, and from the time of his arrival in Calcutta to the present hour, has never uttered a syllable disrespectful to His Majesty. Nay, he has not spoken ill even of his enemies, nor desired any worldly gain. Let His Majesty judge whether he would have acted so honourably, had he not served His Majesty honestly and faithfully! What has he done to incur His Majesty's displeasure? He has taken refuge not with His Majesty's doubtful friends and certain enemies, but with the English *sardārs* who are His Majesty's sincere well-wishers. Nor did he come here to rebel against His Majesty, but with the intention of going to the House of God [Mecca] and spending the rest of his life in peace and tranquillity. He gave up that intention at the earnest solicitations of the English *sardārs* who hoped that His Majesty would one day be impressed with his loyalty and devotion to the Royal cause and take him back into favour. His Majesty in his second *shuqqah* says that the restoration of such an able man as Shujā'u'd-Daulah to the *Vizārat* is necessary for the proper management of the auspicious household. Thinks that if Munīru'd-Daulah had not left the Court, its affairs would not have been thrown into confusion. However His Majesty has acted wisely in selecting the Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah who is unequalled in loyalty and high-mindedness, to manage the Royal affairs. Has strong hopes that His Majesty will not consider useless the man who has attended his fortunes from the very beginning and through the worst times, particularly in these days when His Majesty is endeavouring to restore the Empire to its old splendour. His Majesty in his second *shuqqah* also says that he has left the affair of Munīru'd-Daulah to the decision of the Vazīr. Is very glad to learn this. May his shadow with its beneficent influence never grow less. Seeing that whatever doubt of Munīru'd-Daulah's loyalty remains in His Majesty's mind will be removed by a personal interview, Munīru'd-Daulah will leave Calcutta in four or five days and present

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himself before His Majesty. The English chiefs send Munīru'd-Daulah to His Majesty in full confidence that having regard to his former services and the representations of all His Majesty's true well-wishers, the veil of forgetfulness will be thrown over the events of the past, and the tongues of interested and evilly disposed persons will be tied and their faces darkened.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 21, pp. 85-8. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 19, pp. 169-71. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 76.

Jan. 26. **44**. To the Vazīr. Has received the addressee's two letters, one expressing generous sentiments towards Munīru'd-Daulah, and the other intimating that the addressee has been appointed to manage the affairs of the auspicious household. Is glad to learn all this. The honour that has been conferred upon the addressee is worthy of his greatness and high family. May the prosperity of the Empire be promoted by it. Is also glad to learn that the addressee is in favour of recalling Munīru'd-Daulah to the Court, seeing that in his knowledge of the affairs of the Empire and loyalty to the house of Tīmūr, he is second only to the addressee. When the zeal and capacity of Munīru'd-Daulah are united with the name of the addressee in the Royal cause, all affairs will be managed as they should be. In order that no moment may be lost in the transaction of this business on which the writer and the addressee have set their hearts, the writer encloses a copy of an *'arẓī* which he has addressed to His Majesty on the subject. Munīru'd-Daulah will shortly set out for the Presence. It is hoped that even after his arrival there, the addressee will not cease from co-operating with the writer in completing this good work, and allow those persons who recently caused troubles at the Court to remain there. His Majesty himself possesses a gentle and benevolent disposition. The violence and persistency of the troubles can only be attributed to the intrigues of the wicked whose only safety lies in expelling all honest and upright persons from the Court. For the rest, it is hoped that the addressee considering the writer interested in his welfare, will keep him informed of his health and of whatever happens in that part of the country.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 22, pp. 88-9. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 20, pp. 172-3. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 89.

Jan. 29. **45**. From Jānūjī Bhōnsla, Raja of Nagpur. After deputing Gōpālpūrī Gusain and sending letters professing cordial friendship, after signing a formal treaty promising perpetual and unalterable alliance such as time could not destroy; after enumerating many splendid benefits to be derived from the union of the Mahratta and English forces in a common cause; after declaring that 'we' [the Governor and the writer] have the same friends and the same foes and hold the insinuations of vile adversaries in equal detestation, and mentioning various other circumstances; after promising to prove his sincerity by remitting all dues past as well as present and sending back Udēpūrī Gusain to Nagpur with a trusty representative of the English; after all this the Governor said that when on the writer's side the garden of friendship should blossom with the buds of affection and be watered with the

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streams of contentment, the Governor would then stretch forth his hand to pluck a flower from the field of amity. In other words, the Governor hoped to obtain from the writer the province of Orissa and so to avoid the dangers of the sea and maintain the communications by land, undertaking at the same time to pay the sums due according to *qists* at Murshidabad. Such was the language used by the Governor in his letters to the writer, inspiring confidence and promoting friendship. An intelligent reader could only be charmed and fortified by them. But now a whole year has passed and no word has come from the Governor. All that the writer can gather from the letters of Udēpūrī Gusain is that matters are in the same state as on the first day, that the Governor has always something new to say, and that after his old custom he holds the cup ready to pour but never pours. The writer can only impute this dilatory, hesitating policy of the Governor's to one cause. He must have heard of the disturbances that broke out between the writer and Mādhū Rāo. They ended happily in spite of heavy odds and a lack of proper support. But the details are too tedious to relate. Has heard it said that the touchstone of true friendship is misfortune and danger. That was the time when the Governor should have written to his friend (the writer) and comforted his heart by sending help. That was the time to show that his intentions were sincere and to attach the writer to him by ties of gratitude. Perhaps the Governor's intention was good and no doubt the distance was his excuse. Replies that it is the will of the Almighty that has brought the writer's affairs to a happy issue, and restored peace to his mind. A thousand praises are due to the Almighty that the writer is at perfect ease and enjoys full leisure. Since his return to Nagpur, he has arranged the affairs of his house to his heart's content and dispatched his brother Sambhājī Bhōnsla with 5,000 horse to assist Mādhū Rāo who is employed in attacking Ḥaidar Nāik. Having thus secured tranquillity at home, the writer will turn his attention to regulating the disorders in the provinces. The affairs of Cuttack, notwithstanding the large force of Sambhājī Ganēsh consisting of 1,000 horse, have reached a deadlock, because the Governor has not yet fulfilled the promise that he will dispatch Udēpūrī Gusain and a trusty representative of the English. What is to be done? As the Governor and the writer are friends and have made engagements with each other, the writer cannot, with any regard to the rules of civility, announce himself the Governor's enemy till he knows his sentiments and has received his answer. It is the Governor's duty immediately to commence the payment of the Bengal *qists* as they were settled and established by former *Nāzims* at their own solicitation and for the prosperity of the country, and to send the bills by the hands of Udēpūrī Gusain and some other accredited person. Asks the Governor to have some regard for a friendship of such long standing and not to break so beneficial an alliance. Wishes to know the Governor's designs and urges him to plan some undertaking for the success of which he will be obliged to assist the writer, as he assists the Governor, so that their friendship may be proclaimed to the world. If the Governor has other views and opinions, the writer thinks it useless for Udēpūrī Gusain to remain at Calcutta,

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and desires the Governor to send him back without delay. By the blessing of God, the labour and bloodshed of twelve years will not be thrown away. Is sure to get his rights and a great deal more than the Governor ever contended for, and His Excellency will ultimately pay the price of his obstinacy. The Governor's answer must decide the matter. Hopes that he will speedily relieve the writer's apprehensions.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 23, pp. 4-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 139.

Jan. 29 46. From Raja Murlī Dhar. Sends a *nazr* on the occasion of Mr Cartier's appointment to the office of Governor.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 24, p. 6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 128.

Jan. 30. 47. From Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Is busy collecting coolies, and hopes to send in two or three days a considerable number of them.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 25, p. 7. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 139.

Jan. 30. 48. From Kishn Chand, Raja of Nadia. How can he acknowledge the Governor's gracious treatment of him? May the Almighty bless the Governor with perpetual increase of honour, wealth and reputation! The Nawab [Muḥammad Riẓā Khān] took the writer with him to Murshidabad, presented him to Mr Becher, and settled a *band-o-bast* for his *zamīndārī*. Afterwards the Nawab honoured the writer with a dress and other marks of favour, and dispatched him to Krishnagar where he has arrived safely and is engaged in collecting the revenues and confirming the ryots [in their tenancies]. Under the Governor's auspices, the writer has remitted a *qist* of one *lākh* of rupees and will endeavour to be punctual in remitting the remaining *qists*. Sends a *nazr* of two gold mohurs and five rupees on the occasion of his return to his *zamīndārī*, and hopes that the Governor will honour him by accepting the *nazr*.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 26, p. 7. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 140.

Jan. 30. 49. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Mr Alexander and the writer after their arrival in the *parganah* Arrah, summoned Mīr Muḥammad Mahdī Khān before them, assembled the *'āmils* of Shahabad and began to make a *band-o-bast*. Accordingly the writer has now the honour to enclose the abstract papers of the *parganah* Phulwari, which, calculating the division of 25 seers to the *Sarkār* and 15 to the ryots on grain, and the usual *paṭṭah* on sugar, cotton etc. includes the amount of the revenue that may be expected from the *parganah*. The detailed accounts have been delivered in by the *'āmil* signed by the *chaudhrīs* and *qānūngōs*. But Mr Alexander and the writer propose sending *amīns* into each *parganah* notwithstanding these accounts, and whatever increase or deduction may be advisable on the measurement and the examination, will be entered on the face of the accounts at the year's end. To ensure still greater accuracy in the accounts, the writer has determined at the close of the season, to

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examine and compare the receipts of the *'āmils* with the reports of the *amīns*.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 27, pp. 7, 8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 134.

Jan. 31. **50.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẕim* of Behar. Sends a congratulatory *nazr* of 21 mohurs.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 28, p. 8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 134.

Feb. 1.* **51.** To Raja Murlī Dhar. The Raja was appointed to manage the *ḍāk* at Patna for the advantage of the Company and not for his own benefit. It was his duty to send regularly accurate accounts of affairs. Instead of this, be has not yet sent a single letter of news. Such conduct is most reprehensible. Desires the Raja henceforth to send news regularly and to regard the matter as very urgent.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 23, p. 89. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 21, p. 173. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 82.

Feb. 2. **52.** To Kishn Chand, Raja of Nadia. Is glad to learn that the revenue of his *zamīndārī* has been settled and that after having been honoured with a *khal'at* [at Murshidabad], he has returned to Krishnagar. Now that he has been restored to his *zamīndārī*, it is incumbent upon him to send the *qisṭs* punctually. This will greatly please the writer.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 24, pp. 89-90. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 22, p. 173. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 87.

Feb. 2. **53.** To the Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah. Is glad to learn that the Nawab has arrived at Murshidabad safely. Requests the favour of letters.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 25, p. 90. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 23, p. 173. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 93.

Feb. 3. **54.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Some time ago when Mirzā Kāẓim was called to account, he charged a sum of money, as shown in the enclosed account, to the *zamīndārs* who were then absent. But when they were summoned and the accounts compared, the *zamīndārs* so far from acknowledging that sum, accused Mirzā Kāẓim of having embezzled a much larger sum than he had debited them for and offered to produce damning evidence in support of their charge. Now as it was necessary, in order to settle this transaction, to confront Mirzā Kāẓim with the *zamīndārs*, and to scrutinize every detail thoroughly, as moreover, the money belongs to the Company, the writer repeatedly summoned him to Murshidabad to answer the charge, and he as often eluded the writer's orders, invented trifling excuses and secure in the protection of the Dutch (he resides at Chinsura), set the writer's authority at defiance. This year as the writer was returning from Calcutta, he sent for Mirzā Kāẓim and insisted on his coming to Murshidabad, but again he had recourse to his old method of making promises and requested a few days' indulgence. But Mirzā Kāẓim had deceived the writer too often. Two *harkārahs* were appointed to bring him by boat from Hooghly to Murshidabad and prevent his taking refuge in Chinsura. It so happened that just as he was coming out of the fort gate of Hooghly, and making towards Chinsura, the two *harkārahs* stopped him and forbade him to go further.

* Jan. 26 according to the volume of copies.

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Enraged at this, he drew his crice and alighted from his palanquin, declaring his determination to proceed to Chinsura. When the writer heard of the disturbance, he sent a trustworthy person with two or three others to reason with him and by remonstrances to prevail upon him to go quietly to the boat. It was no use. He continued to show insolence and vent his rage in the most disrespectful terms. Finding no other remedy and believing that the only solution of the difficulty lay in Mirzā Kāẓim's appearing in person, the writer sent a guard to apprehend him, convey him to his boat and bring him to the city by force. On this, he dismissed his attendants with the baggage and necessaries and going on board the boat with only the dress which he had on at that time, came up to the writer at Chakdaha. When the writer questioned him concerning his unjustifiable behaviour, he could find no excuse except that he was in total want of necessaries for a journey. He begged permission to proceed to Chinsura to prepare his baggage and assured the writer that he would return in four days. Yielding to his representation, the writer provided him with a boat and allowed him to depart with two *harkārahs* to guard his person. Being afraid that he would be found guilty at Murshidabad and obliged to refund the sum due from him, he took the opportunity, while the *harkārahs* were off their guard, to escape from Chinsura to Calcutta, thinking that he would be safe there. The money belongs to the Company, and the writer has done his best to recover it. That is why he has given such a detailed account of the whole transaction. Requests the Governor, who is the master, to issue orders on the subject. The enclosed account shows Mirzā Kāẓim to be indebted in respect of Rs 2,00,000 which he illegally assessed under the head of private charges, notwithstanding that he enjoyed a fixed salary or *sihbandī* besides which he had no other claim.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 29, pp. 8, 9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 124.

Feb. 3, **54A.** Account enclosed in the foregoing letter.

	Rs. A. P.
Sum collected by Mirzā Kāẓim under the head of private charges .	2,00,000-0-0
Sum for which he debits the *zamīndārs* in Jalamuta	47,705-7-7
" " Mahishadal and Satsikka .	39,028-7-0
Balance on account of the Committee Salt	16,000-0-0
Total .	3,02,733-14-7

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 29A, p. 9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 124.

Feb. 4. **55.** From Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Intimates that he has sent 500 workmen to Calcutta. The coolies are to receive a monthly wage of 4½ rupees per man and the *sardārs* 6 rupees per head. Is unable to send more at this season of the year without taking off many useful hands from the cultivation of the country.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 30, p. 10. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

Feb. 4. **56.** To Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Has received the Khān's letter saying that he is busily engaged in collecting workmen and will send some in two or three days. Desires him to send

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as many workmen as may be got. The sooner he sends them, the greater will be the writer's pleasure.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 26, pp. 90-1. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 24, p. 173. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 81.

Feb. 4. **57**. To Razīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Has received his letter with an enclosure containing an account of the French ship, and relating to the illegal exaction of the sepoys at Ghyretty. Desires the Khān to write fully about the French and their movements. As to the exactions of the sepoys at Ghyretty, a letter in English has been written to the chief of that place on the subject. Is sure that they will give up their evil ways and return whatever money they have extorted from the merchants.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 27, p. 91. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 25, pp. 173-4. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 87.

Feb. 4. **58**. To Umī Chand, *Dīvān* of Burdwan. Has received his letter intimating the dispatch of the *qist* for the month of *Pūs*. It is necessary that in future as in the present case he should send the *qists* punctually. This will gain him much honour and improve his prospects.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 28, p. 91. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 26, p. 174. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 73.

Feb. 4. **59**. To Tilōk Chand, Raja of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 29, pp. 91-2. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 27, p. 174. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 84.

Feb. 5. **60**. From the Vazīr. Congratulates Mr Cartier on his appointment to the office of Governor The writer repaired to the Presence in consequence of His Majesty's summons and was received graciously. 'Yesterday' the 15th *Ramazān*, he set out for Faizabad. As there is no separation between the writer and the Company, and as their interests are identical, the writer has written this much for the Governor's information.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 31, p. 10. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 145.

Feb. 5. **61**. From the Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah. Informs the Governor of his arrival at the city.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 32, p. 10. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 147.

Feb. 5.* **62**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has received his several letters together with eight baskets of Kabul apples through Shaikh Burhānu'd-Dīn. Approves of the Raja's going on a tour in company with Mr Alexander to settle the disordered affairs of the *muffassal*. Hopes that the Raja will carry out his task without incurring extra expenditure or oppressing the ryots in any way. Has read the paper of news regarding the West, sent by the Raja. Desires him always to send news of that part of the country as soon as he receives it.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 30, p. 92. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 28, p. 174. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 85.

* Feb. 4 according to the volume of copies.

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Feb. 5.* **63.** To Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. In these days a considerable number of boats is wanted by the Company at Benares, and the writer has addressed a letter to Mr Motte on the subject. Desires the Raja to assist that gentleman in collecting the boats. This will greatly please and oblige the writer.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 31, pp 92-3. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 29, p. 174. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 84.

Feb. 5. **64.** To Sambhājī Ganēsh, *Ṣūbahdār* of Orissa. Has been informed by Mr Marriott that Ankū Rāy, *Nāib Faujdār* of Balasore, has lately stopped the importation of rice and other grain into the *Bārābātī* and oppresses the *mutaṣaddīs* there. As the relations between the English and the Mahrattas are so friendly, it is hoped that the addressee will issue strict orders to the *Nāib Faujdār*, the *zamīndārs* and *dārōghāhs* and the rest of the *'amlah* and *fi'lah* of Balasore to desist from such proceedings. The reason why the *'amlah* of Balasore oppresses the *mutaṣaddīs* is that it wants money of them. This makes its conduct all the more reprehensible.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 32, p. 93. Trans. R and I., 1770, no 30, p. 174. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 92.

Feb. 5.* **65.** To Raja Murlī Dhar. Has received the Raja's letter together with a *nazr* of five gold mohurs through Shaikh Burhānu'd-Dīn. Desires him to send regularly news regarding the West.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 33, pp. 93-4. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 31, p. 174. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 82.

Feb. 6. **66.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has already informed the Governor of the measures which [Mr Alexander] and the writer have taken in the *parganah* of Phulwari. They have since taken up their residence in the *parganah* Arrah in order to regulate the *sarkār* of Shahabad. The loose accounts of the year as delivered in and signed by the *chaudhrīs* and *qānūngōs* are enclosed for the Governor's perusal. At the close of the season the writer proposes sending *amīns* to examine the receipts. The amount of the whole collections which have been settled at the rate of 25 seers to the *Sarkār* and 15 seers to the ryots on grain and according to the *paṭṭah* on other articles will be Rs 5,56,745-4-0. Out of this, Rs 1,05,711-10-0 must be deducted for the charges of collection, and the remaining Rs 4,51,033-10-0 will be the savings of the *Sarkār*. After settling the *parganah* Arrah, Mr Alexander and the writer set out on the 22nd *Ramaẓān*, and arrived in the *parganah* Sasaram. Will hereafter inform the Governor of the state and settlement of this *parganah* as also of the *parganah* Chainpur.

PS.—The accounts of the *sarkār* Chiran are included in those of Shahabad which are now enclosed.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 33, pp. 10, 11. Abs. R., 1767-71, p 134.

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Feb. 7. **67**. From Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. The affair of Raja Hindū Pat's son is this. He arrived at Mirzapur which is within the writer's jurisdiction without any previous notice. At the same time, his father sent the writer word that as the young man had left him in a fit of rage, the writer should endeavour by gentle means to appease his resentment and on no account allow him to visit other places. Upon this the writer sent for the young man and out of regard for his father tried to persuade him by mild expostulations to return to his duty. Though he is young [and therefore obstinate], the writer succeeded so well in his task, that he consented to return provided his father sent two trustworthy persons with assurances of good will from him. Raja Hindū Pat has promised to comply with the condition. Expects the messengers daily. Has written other particulars to Mr Coxe.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 34, p. 11. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 140.

Feb. 7. **68**. To Muhammad Rizā Khān. Has received the Khān's letter regarding the insolent and refractory behaviour of Mirzā Kāzim. As the matter is very serious, a guard of seven *tilangās* has been appointed to convey him to Murshidabad by water. Has also written to 'Izzatu'd-Daulah Mr Becher Bahrām Jang Bahādur on the subject.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 34, p. 94. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 32, p. 175. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 78.

Feb. 7. **69**. To the Vazīr. Acknowledges the receipt of the addressee's letter intimating that he visited the King at Allahabad and received honours at His Majesty's hands and that he has now returned to Faizabad. Has learnt from various sources that Mīr Qāsim Khān has made friends with all the chiefs of Hindustan and is corresponding with them. There is not a single chief at the present moment who is not either engaged in negotiations with some other chief or in preparing for war. The addressee has not yet informed the writer of this matter, though in the last letter sent by Mr Harper there was a brief mention of it. It appears that the addressee believing the news to be devoid of truth did not attach any importance to it. It is hoped that now he will write a detailed account of it.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 35, pp. 94-5. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 33, p. 175. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 89.

Feb. 7.* **70**. To the Vazīr. Sends the addressee, as requested, a *saqanqūr* fish encased in a *nalvā*. Desires to know if it is a real *saqanqūr* that he may procure more and send them to the addressee.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 36, p. 95. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 34, p. 175. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 89.

Feb. 8. **71**. From Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. Congratulates Mr Cartier on becoming Governor.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 35, p. 11. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 141.

Feb. 8. **72**. From Tilōk Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Informs the Governor of the dispatch of Rs 1,50,000, being the first *qist* for the month of *Māgh* on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 36, p. 11. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 138.

* Feb. 8 according to the volume of copies.

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Feb. 8.† **73.** To the King. The attitude of reserve which His Majesty has adopted towards the English for some time has given the writer the greatest concern. It appears that His Majesty either does not now see eye to eye with his true well-wishers, the English, or that his heart, boundless as the ocean, has ceased to trust them. Whatever may be the cause of the change in His Majesty's attitude, it is the writer's duty to tell His Majesty plainly that this concealing of his views and resolutions from the English will be prejudicial to his affairs. His Majesty himself has seen that the English chiefs have never broken their word. This makes the writer wonder all the more at the alteration in His Majesty's attitude and policy. It is about a month since the writer heard that Mīr Qāsim, with a view to creating trouble, was negotiating with the chiefs of Hindustan, and that the whole country was astir with the talk of war. Although the English, through the auspices of His Majesty and by the help of their allies, can easily defend themselves against their enemies, yet having regard to the bonds of friendship that exists between His Majesty and the English, it is necessary that in such affairs as this, His Majesty and the writer should consult each other and act in concert. For the rest, His Majesty knows everything and it would be useless to write more.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 37, pp. 95-6. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 35, pp. 175-6. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 76.

Feb. 8.† **74.** To Najaf Khān, *Faujdār* of Kora. Some time ago the writer received a letter from the Khān, but was unable to reply to it earlier owing to pressure of business. The English chiefs are greatly pleased with him for the valuable services he has rendered to the Company As it is their fixed principle always to support those who have once served the Company, the Khān need feel no anxiety ; he may inform the Governor of his affairs without ceremony.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 38, p. 96. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 36, p. 176. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 83.

Feb. 9. **75.** From Munnī Bēgam. Offers compliments.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 37, p. 11. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 128.

Feb. 9. **76.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Offers compliments.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 38, p. 11. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 134.

Feb. 9. **77.** From Raja Dhīraj Narāyan. Sets forth his distressed situation which for the last three years has been growing worse and worse, and hopes that his case will be considered favourably.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 39, p. 12. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 142.

Feb. 10. **78.** From Razīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Intimates that he has arrested a vagrant European and dispatched him under a guard to Calcutta.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 40, p. 12. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 139-40.

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Feb. 16. **79.** From the Vazīr. The events which seem to demand attention have been fully described to Captain Harper who will inform the Governor. The sum total of everything is this. Qāsim 'Alī has nefarious projects in his mind, and after uniting the Sikhs and Mahrattas in his cause, he proposes to invade Bengal, though matters have not yet assumed a threatening aspect and his schemes, whatever they may be, want a more solid foundation. Bound as the writer and the English are by ties of friendship, affection and interest, Qāsim 'Alī will doubtless be foiled in his attempt to invade Bengal, and suffer shame and disgrace. However, as it is a good maxim to provide for a danger beforehand, the writer recommends that a large force with proper artillery be stationed at Patna or two or three *kōs* on this side of it, so that these troops may be ready to march and join the writer at the first alarm. Has written this letter to warn the Governor and to urge him to take such precautions as may be of use on the day of necessity. What power has Qāsim to penetrate to Bengal or show his face there? The writer will be the vanguard of the English and oppose his entering Bengal.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 41, p. 12. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 145.

Feb. 16. **80.** From the Vazīr. Has already written his congratulations to Mr Cartier and he must again repeat them, though he is unable to describe the joy of his heart. The friendship which the writer cherished for and showed to Lord Clive was without bounds and without parallel; and after his departure, though Mr Verelst was never personally known to the writer, the latter continued to receive every pleasing mark of attention and regard. Now that Mr Cartier has succeeded to the office of Governor, the writer is all the more pleased and satisfied, for though his connection with the Company was inaugurated by others, it was strengthened by Mr Cartier. He has seen the writer's manners and knows his disposition. How inseparable are the interests of the writer from those of the Company! Mr Cartier has seen the truth, rectitude and firmness of the writer's heart, and his scrupulous regard for the observance of treaties. On his part the writer is not ignorant of the great qualities of the English *sardārs*. He knows that they are true to and firm in their engagements and never depart from what they write or say. Consequently the writer is confident that the friendship between him and the English will ever increase and that posterity will enjoy the blessing of it. Has only one request to make and he makes it most earnestly. It is that if, which God forbid, any person from bad and malicious motives should ever intermeddle in 'our' affairs and spread broadcast calumnies and lies, it is hoped that the Governor will not lock them up in his heart, but will immediately make known his sentiments to the writer alone. Then will truth and falsehood be put to the test and the face of the liar darkened.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 42, pp. 12, 13. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 145.

Feb. 16.* **81.** To the Vazīr. Has received the addressee's letter relating to the machinations of Mīr Qāsim and emphasising the fact that the interests of the addressee and the English are identical. Hopes that

* Feb. 17 according to the volume of copies.

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the addressee will in future express his sentiments with the same frankness and sincerity as he has done on the present occasion. Assures him that the writer on his part will be equally frank and sincere in communicating his views to the addressee; and should important news regarding the West happen to reach the writer's ears before it is known to the addressee, the writer will communicate it to him without delay, and consult him. Nay, the writer will address the Vazīr on all subjects without reserve, for it is patent to the writer that a frank and sincere exchange of views will go far to strengthen the foundations of their friendship and tend to the confusion of their enemies. Agrees with the addressee that Mīr Qāsim is not yet an object of dread. His followers whom he has bought with money, are not sincerely attached to him, and it is certain that they will not remain with him longer than his money lasts. In any case so long as the addressee and the English are united, Mīr Qāsim cannot do them any harm. But since one should never consider one's enemy beneath contempt, the English chiefs will always be on their guard. For the present, however, it is the King who seems to demand their attention. The addressee is fully acquainted with the disposition of His Majesty who is particularly deficient in knowledge of the world and of the machinations of the wicked. Has heard more than once from reliable sources that negotiations are on foot between His Majesty and the accursed Qāsim, and that the latter's messengers have been received in audience. Surely there is some arch-villain at the Court, who having won the confidence of His Majesty, is directing the Royal affairs. The people whom the addressee has left at the Court to manage the Royal affairs are not personally known to the writer, but he has heard that they are endowed with wisdom and understanding, and are sincerely attached to the addressee's family. Moreover Sa'ādat 'Alī Khān, the addressee's son, who is living at the Court, can materially assist the addressee's representatives in the performance of their duties. Be that as it may, it is chiefly from the addressee that the writer expects to receive a true and detailed account of the affair, and he appeals to the addressee, immediately on receipt of this letter, to remove the writer's anxiety by taking such steps as may strengthen the alliance existing between His Majesty, the addressee, and the English, lest His Majesty's foolish counsellors and wicked courtiers may succeed in breaking it up. His Majesty has ceased for some time to write frankly about his affairs to the writer which the English regard in the light of an insult. To write more would be to teach Luqmān wisdom.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 39, pp. 96-8. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 37, pp. 176-7. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 89-90.

Feb. 17.* **82.** To Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. A sum of about two *lākhs* of rupees will shortly be required by Colonel Galliez at Allahabad. Desires the Raja to send the money to the Colonel as soon as he applies for it. In return the Colonel will grant the Raja a bill for the above amount on the Patna Factory.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 41, p. 99. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 38, p. 177. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 84.

* Feb. 19 according to the volume of copies.

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Feb. 19. **83**. From Tilōk Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends Rs 9,401-3 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 43, p. 13. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 138.

Feb. 19. **84**. From Ghulām Ḥusain Khān. The Nawab Dūndī Khān, the cousin of Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān and the father-in-law of Najibu'd-Daulah, was the person who gave protection to Qāsim at Atarchendi. The writer frequently observed to the Nawab that the Government of Calcutta resented the protection given to their avowed enemy. In consequence of this the Nawab ordered Mīr Qāsim to leave Atarchendi. Accordingly Mīr Qāsim transferred his residence to Gohad, taking with him the daughter of the late Mīr Ja'far and all his near relations, leaving only a few dependants at Atarchendi. These too he will probably withdraw. The Nawab's letter to the Governor contains full particulars of the subject. The writer was formerly sent as a representative of both the Nawab Dūndī Khān and Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān to Lord Clive at Allahabad with a view to effecting an alliance between the Rohillas and the English. Afterwards the writer was sent by Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān to Calcutta and remained some time with Mr Verelst. Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān has again sent the writer to represent him at Calcutta. Requests that he may be granted a *dastak* as before to enable him to travel to Calcutta safely.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 44, pp. 13, 14. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 116.

Feb. 19. **85**. From Dūndī Khān. Although the writer has not hitherto corresponded with the Governor, yet he has heard of His Excellency's preeminent qualities from Mīr Ghulām Ḥusain Khān and others and 'our' hearts are united even without a personal acquaintance. Mīr Muḥammad Qāsim Khān came in a distressed and abject condition to the writer's territory, and implored the protection of the house of the Rohillas, who could not in common justice and humanity refuse him an asylum. This is all that was done for him. He received no support from the Rohillas to strengthen his hands or awaken his ambition. He attempted twice to raise troops and commence negotiations, but was each time told in a peremptory manner to refrain from such courses. At length the Rohillas discovered that to afford him protection any longer was offensive to the English chiefs and so out of regard for their feelings, gave him plain orders to retire from Rohilkhand. Accordingly he set out with his family and retinue and proceeded to Agra. Henceforth he will have no connection with the Rohillas. Has written this for the Governor's information. The house of the Rohillas is united in firm friendship to the English chiefs. Requests letters. Refers the Governor to Ghulām Ḥusain Khān for other matters. Is confident that the Governor will not be backward in performing the duties of friendship.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 45, p. 14. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 114.

Feb. 19. **86**. From Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān. Congratulates Mr Cartier on his appointment to the office of Governor, and hopes that the friendship existing between the English chiefs and the Rohillas will be continued. Refers him to Ghulām Ḥusain Khān for particulars.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 46, p. 15. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 116-17.

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Feb. 19.* **87.** To Muhammad Rizā Khān. The Khān may remember that when he was in Calcutta, the writer spoke to him about the necessity for searching the ships of the European nations proceeding up the river. The writer has since devised, with the help of the Committee, a plan for that purpose. It has been decided that the plan should be fully explained to the officials of the *Nizāmat* and that they should be directed to carry it out carefully. Accordingly instructions have been issued to 'Izzatu'd-Daulah Mr Becher on the subject. The plan is this. All the ships belonging to the European nations will be stopped at Kalpi where a special officer of the *Nizāmat* with a strong guard will be stationed to search the ships. If a ship is found to carry more than 250 men, or if two tiers of guns are mounted on it, or if it has on board other implements of war, it will be prevented from proceeding up the river. The officer of the *Nizāmat* will, without delay, report the above particulars in the case of every ship to the higher authorities. In order that these regulations may have a legal basis, it is necessary that the *Nāzim* should write to the chiefs of the different European nations in Bengal, requiring them to direct the pilots in their service to obey the new regulations, from which no nation will be exempted. Seeing that the proper enforcement of the regulations depends upon the experience and ability of the officer employed for the purpose, it is essential that such an officer should be selected most carefully. Desires the Khān to act in concert with Mr Becher in the matter.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 43, pp. 99-101. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 39, pp. 178-9. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 78.

Feb. 19.† **88.** To Muhammad Rizā Khān. About fifteen months ago, the Nawab Qamaru'd-Daulah [Mr Verelst] with a view to satisfying the Vazīr and preventing disturbances, issued orders requiring all European *gumāshtahs* to withdraw from the territories of the Vazīr and Raja Balvant Singh within a fixed time. Accordingly all the *gumāshtahs* trading in that part of the country, came away excepting M. Canonje who was allowed to remain there for three months more to realise his dues on condition that he absolutely refrained from transacting new business. But he abused the concession granted to him and remained there for six or eight months at the end of which he came to Farashdanga [Chandarnagar]. Has heard that it is three months since he left again for the territories of the Vazīr and Raja Balvant Singh with a large fleet of boats laden with merchandise. It is strange that not a single officer of the *Nizāmat* has informed the writer of this affair, much less performed his duty in stopping the boats. Has further been informed that between twenty and twenty-five more Frenchmen have proceeded up the country with merchandise, and that as no one interferes with them in any way, they go wherever they like. This has caused the writer the greatest surprise. Has informed the Khān of these particulars in the belief that he will punish the *chaukīdārs* who have proved remiss in the matter, and order them to be more careful in future. This will greatly please the writer and be a proof of the

* Feb. 20 according to the volume of copies.
† Feb. 21 according to the volume of copies.

1770. Khān's loyalty. Desires that strict orders may be issued to Raja Shitāb Rāy on the subject.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 46, pp. 101-2. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 40, pp. 179-80. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 79.

Feb. 19.* **89**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim of* Behar. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 47, pp. 102-3.

Feb. 19. **90**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Two years ago Nand Rām, a *gumāshtah* of Mr Bolts', went to Sylhet on behalf of that gentleman with a quantity of copper. The merchants of that place took some copper and agreed to give *mūgā* cloth in exchange for it. Has now been informed by the said *gumāshtah* that the merchants wish to return the copper in contravention of the agreement. Desires the Khān to assist the *gumāshtah* in realising from the merchants Rs 5,000, being the price of the copper taken by them.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 40, pp. 98-9. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 41, p. 180. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 79.

Feb. 20. **91**. To Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. Desires him once more to assist Mr. Motte in collecting as many boats for the use of the Company at Benares as possible.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 42, p. 99.

Feb. 20. **92**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Muḥammad As'ad, *vakīl* of the *parganah* of Sandwip, has submitted a complaint the particulars of which have been communicated to Mr Becher in an English letter. Desires the Khān to act justly in the matter.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 44, p. 101.

Feb. 20. **93**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Ghulām Ḥaidar, *Zamīndār* of Habibganj, complains that he has been oppressed in various ways by Himmat Singh. Refers the Khān for particulars to Mr Becher to whom an English letter has been written on the subject, and desires that justice may be done in the matter.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 45, p. 101.

Feb. 20.† **94**. To Dūndī Khān. Thanks the Khān for the good opinion he entertains of the English nation. Is confident that in the course of future transactions also, he will never find reason to retract that opinion. The Khān is endowed with prudence and understanding to which is due the peace and prosperity which the tribe of the Rohillas have been enjoying so long. It is his strong belief that they will never besmirch their honour or risk their prosperity by espousing the cause of the ill-starred Mīr Qāsim. The Khān writes that since that 'owl of bad omen' retired from Rohilkhand, the Khān has had no dealings with him. [The writer quite believes it] and says that it has all along been his opinion that Mīr Qāsim's braggadocio about his intention of invading Bengal is due to the instigation of the Mahrattas and the Sikhs who want his money; and that the Rohillas have never promised to afford him open or secret assistance. There was no necessity on the part of

* Feb. 21 according to the volume of copies.
† Feb. 24 according to the volume of copies.

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the Khān to convince the writer of this, for it is impossible for the Khān to join hands with the people who plunder their friends and foes alike, who never keep their promises, who are the natural enemies of Hindustan, and who by sowing discord among the different chiefs, wish to usurp the rule of every province of the country. It is necessary for the well-being of Hindustan that the Sikhs should not be allowed to cross the frontier of Sirhind nor the Mahrattas the river Narbada. To admit these people into the heart of Hindustan would be to † cherish a snake in one's bosom. It is better to awake to the danger before it is too late. What the writer wants to impress upon the Khān is that Mīr Qāsim is not only the enemy of the English but of the Rohillas and of all the chiefs of Hindustan, and that moreover the English chiefs are ready to defend their own possessions. The Khān knows very well that the English do not wish any one ill. By the grace of God, they have never turned their back upon an enemy, nor have they attacked any one gratuitously. In any case, the Khān may depend upon the writer's doing his best to extinguish the flame of war, should it ever break out. Hopes that the Khān will continue to correspond with the writer in order that the friendship between the Rohillas and the English may daily increase.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 52, pp. 106-8. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 42, pp. 180-1. Abs. I., 1766-71, pp. 73-4.

Feb. 20.* **95**. To Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān. Has received his letter desiring that an alliance may be established between the Rohillas and the English. As desired, Mīr Ghulām Ḥusain Khān, the addressee's *vakīl,* who is at Benares, has been summoned to Calcutta. After his arrival here, the terms and conditions of the alliance will be discussed and decided upon.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 53, p. 108. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 43, p. 181. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 75.

Feb. 20.* **96**. To Ghulām Ḥusain Khān. Has received the letters of the Nawab Ḥāfiẓu'l-Mulk [Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān] and the Nawab Dilāvar Jang 'Izzatu'd-Daulah Dūndī Khān Bahādur Bahrām Jang which the addressee sent through Rafī'u'd-Daulah Mr Coxe Bahādur Dilēr Jang. Sends replies to those letters and desires him to forward them to the said Nawabs. Sends him also a *dastak* to enable him to come to Calcutta. After his arrival here, the terms of an alliance between the Rohillas and the English will be discussed.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 54, pp. 108-9. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 44, p. 181. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 75.

Feb. 22.§ **97**. To Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. The English *sardārs* are fully convinced of the Raja's loyalty and attachment to the Company. The fact is 'clearer than the sun' and it is hardly necessary for the writer to mention it. Has not the least doubt that neither the English *sardārs* will be sorry for granting him protection, nor he for trusting them. In these days when treaties and agreements have become the sport of 'cur-natured' and evil minded people, and friendship is a mere name which is made use of by brazen-faced

† The Persian proverb is almost the same : to cherish a snake in one's sleeve.
* Feb. 24 according to the volume of copies.
§ Feb. 23 according to the volume of copies.

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hypocrites for the furtherance of their ends, the alliance between the Raja and the English is one in a thousand, for it has not the slightest tinge of insincerity and hypocrisy about it. Hitherto the Raja has communicated his sentiments about the state of affairs in that part of the country through Mr Motte. Desires that the Raja should now correspond direct with the writer and inform him fully of all events as they occur there. Living where he does, it is easy for the Raja to obtain accurate information regarding them. Is aware that the people of this country feel hesitation and are afraid to give information in affairs of this nature. This is moral weakness. It is hoped that the Raja will not succumb to it in his correspondence with the English *sardārs*. In order that he may correspond without reserve with the writer, the latter promises the most scrupulous secrecy on every subject. It would be of great advantage to learn who directs the present movements of Mīr Qāsim and who is supporting him. It is also necessary to learn what attitude the courts at Allahabad and Faizabad are going to adopt towards him. Hopes that the Raja will spare no pains to investigate these matters. It is at present uncertain which route Mīr Qāsim, the Sikhs and the Mahrattas will come by, and whether they will act jointly or separately. If they come by way of Bundelkhand, the Raja's territories will be exposed to great danger. At all events it is necessary that he should attend to the security of his territories by augmenting his troops and collecting war-materials. He should also enter into negotiations with the Rajas through whose territories the enemy are likely to pass, with a view to co-operating with them in resisting the threatened invasion. Desires to know with what force the Raja can help the common cause. By the blessing of God, should the enemy advance this way, it will be a case of a biter bit. The most important point is that as long as the coming and going of *vakīls* and the exchange of deceitful messages between the different chiefs in that part of the country continue, one should not cease to be on one's guard.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 48, pp. 103-5. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 45, pp. 181-2. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 84.

Feb. 22.* **98.** To Hindū Pat, Raja of Bundelkhand. Has not heard from the Raja for a long time. It is, however, of little consequence, since the friendship that is true and sincere is independent of forms and formalities. The Raja is perhaps aware of the nature of the negotiations that are on foot between Mīr Qāsim, the Mahrattas, Sikhs and various other powers. Has heard much of the Raja's intellectual and moral qualities, and consequently it is certain that he will take adequate measures to defend his honour and country. The Mahrattas are notorious for plundering people and breaking treaties, and such is the extent to which they are distrusted that no one joins hands with them excepting robbers and dacoits. It is rumoured that the Mahrattas intend to come to Bengal through Bundelkhand. Should they entertain so foolish an idea, it is hoped that the Raja will not be backward in punishing them. And as the Raja's country is mountainous and the Mahrattas are ignorant of the passes there, and as their army consists

* Feb. 23 according to the volume of copies.

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mainly of cavalry, it would not be very difficult to defeat them. The English *sardārs* on their part are not unmindful of the well-being of mankind and the maintenance of peace, and they will readily assist the Raja in this task. God willing, the invaders will reap the fruit of their pride and suffer the consequences of their evil deeds.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 49, pp 105-6. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 46, pp. 182-3. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 88.

Feb. 23. **99**. To the Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah. Acknowledges the receipt of the Nawab's letter, and requests that he may correspond with the writer regularly.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 50, p. 106.

Feb. 23. **100**. To the Sēṭhs Khush-Ḥāl Chand and Udey Chand. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 51, p. 106.

Feb. 25. **101**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Intimates that according to the Governor's directions, orders have been issued to the *Faujdār* of Sylhet to assist the *gumāshtahs* of Mr Bolts in the collection of his dues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 47, p. 15. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 124.

Feb. 28. **102**. To Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Intimates that all the workmen whom he had sent from Hooghly, have deserted, as also the two *dafa'dārs* who had come with them. Desires the Khān not to let them stay at Hooghly, but to send them back to Calcutta without fail.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 55, p. 109. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 47, p. 183. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 74.

Feb. 28. **103**. To Raja Mahindar Dūlab Rām, *Dīvān* of Murshidabad. Acknowledges the receipt of his letter, and hopes that he will retain the favour of the English by continuing to attend to the Company's business diligently.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 56, p. 109. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 48, p. 183. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 87.

Feb. 28. **104**. To Raja Murlī Dhar. Has received the Raja's letter saying that he has been sending papers of intelligence to the writer through Nōb Kishn. Reproves him for this, and asks by whose authority he has adopted this practice. Desires him in future to send news to the writer direct and not through Nōb Kishn.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 57, pp. 109-10. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 49, p. 183. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 82.

Mar. 3. **105**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the Governor's letter respecting the ships. As the writer is fully sensible that his honour, name and interests depend solely upon the duration and stability of the Company's power, God is his witness that he is greatly pleased to learn of the wise, judicious and well-timed resolution of the Governor and the Committee regarding the ships. But as to carrying it out, the Governor knows how difficult it is to find thoroughly reliable people in this age of perfidy. It is an ancient custom in Hindustan

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that whenever some important business is taken in hand, three officers, namely, the *dārōghah*, the writer of occurrences, and the writer of reports, are appointed to manage it. Moreover, a number of *harkārahs* are stationed in different parts of the country to spy upon the three officers. The latter act independently of one another and send separate reports to head-quarters, while the *harkārahs* keep a secret diary of the doings of the officers. Recommends that in the present case the same method be adopted, and such officers appointed to manage the business as may be capable and as may not be influenced by prejudice or friendship or any other consideration. They may be stationed at Kalpi with a company of sepoys to attend them. The rules and regulations which the Governor has drawn up, are wise and proper. Proposes in addition that the three officers should be changed every four months. Should the Governor approve of this suggestion, the writer may be informed immediately in order that he, in consultation with Mr Becher, may select men of credit, vigilant and capable, and issue orders to the governors and directors of the European settlements on the subject. Requests that he may be also informed of any other expedient that the Governor may think of. Will, in the meantime, look for fit and capable men to carry out the scheme.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 48, pp 15, 16. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 124.

Mar. 3. **106**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. As regards the affair of M. Canonje, the writer well remembers that he was brought a prisoner to Murshidabad, and afterwards granted a license for three months, which license he prolonged to seven or eight months; and that finally he returned to Chandarnagar of his own accord. The fact that he has again left Chandarnagar with a large fleet of boats laden with merchandise and has met with no molestation or hindrance from the *chaukīdārs* seems to show that they have been guilty of negligence. But as they were directed to let pass all goods which went under the *dastak* of the French Company or any other Company, and to offer no molestation to the trade of the French Company within the *ṣūbahs* of Bengal and Behar, it is most probable that M. Canonje has passed under a French *dastak* and that it is the French chief who is responsible for issuing it. But if M. Canonje and the other Frenchmen have actually crossed the limits of Behar, the *chaukīdārs* of that province are to blame, for express injunctions had been issued to them to stop the French from going beyond it. However the writer has sent a letter to Raja Shitāb Rāy on the subject, directing him to apprehend M. Canonje and send him to Murshidabad. As regards the other Frenchmen, the writer has dispatched people to the head of the Jalangi and Rajmahal, and has written both to Raja Shitāb Rāy at Patna and Pūpat [?] Rām at Rajmahal to the effect that at whatever place the Frenchmen may have arrived, their boats should be stopped and examined, that if they have a French *dastak* with them, they should be detained and a report sent to the minister for further orders, but that if the Frenchmen have no *dastak*, they should be made prisoners and sent down to Murshidabad, and lastly that the utmost strictness should in future be observed to prevent similar acts of negligence. Opines that as the *chaukīdārs* are appointed to collect

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the duties and cannot be trusted for any such service as the present one, it would be advisable to appoint a qualified person to attend to this business alone. Before the rains he should be stationed at Jalangi; but after the rains there should be two persons, one at Jalangi and the other at Bhimniah. Their duty should be to detain all such boats as do not carry the French *dastak* and send down to Murshidabad under a guard the persons in charge of them, and not to suffer more than one European to accompany a fleet belonging to the French Company, as one is quite sufficient to take charge of one fleet. Proposes also writing to the French and Dutch chiefs enjoining them not to send more than one European with a fleet. They will protest against this to the Governor who is requested not to pay any regard to them. If the Governor has other views on the subject, the writer trusts that he may be informed of them that he may act accordingly.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 49, pp. 16, 17. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 124.

Mar. 4. **107**. From the King. Has perused the Governor's *'arẓī* on the subject of Munīru'd-Daulah, and weighed and considered its contents. Out of regard for the joint representations of the Governor and the Vazīr, His Majesty forgives Munīru'd-Daulah on condition that he settles his accounts. Desires the Governor to give His Majesty no further trouble on this head. This is His Majesty's final decision. Relying on the friendship of the English, His Majesty left Shahjahanabad and all connections and prospects, and took up his residence with his family at Allahabad. It is therefore incumbent on the English to please and satisfy His Majesty. Desires the Governor once again not to importune him any more about Munīru'd-Daulah. Will forgive him after he has settled his accounts.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 50, pp. 17, 18. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 118.

Mar. 4. **108**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received two baskets of grapes and one of Kabul seedless pomegranates sent by the Raja through Shaikh Burhānu'd-Dīn. Thanks the Raja for the delicious fruit which he has got from such a great distance.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 58, p. 110.

Mar. 4. **109**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received the Raja's letter saying that after touring Shahabad and the other districts on this side of the river in company with Ashrafu'd-Daulah Mr Alexander Bahâdur Haibat Jang for the purpose of settling the revenue, he has returned to Patna. Desires the Raja to attend to the increase of cultivation and the welfare of the ryots so diligently that it may redound to his credit.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 59, pp. 110-11. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 50, p. 183. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 85.

Mar. 5. **110**. To the Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah. Has received the Nawab's letter intimating that his condition has slightly improved. Expresses joy at the news and prays for his complete recovery from smallpox, that fell disease from which he is suffering.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 60, p. 111.

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Mar. 8. **111**. From Najaf K͟hān, *Faujdār* of Kora. Complains of the Governor's silence and professes inviolable attachment to the Company.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 51, p. 18. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 131.

Mar. 10. **112**. From Najaf K͟hān, *Faujdār* of Kora. Has received the Governor's letter. How can he describe the sad and repellent aspect of affairs at the Court? By the artifices and importunities of the Vazīr, the management of Kora and Kara has been taken away from the writer and entrusted to K͟hwājah Ṣamad K͟hān who has agreed to pay Rs 14,70,000 annually to His Majesty. The writer who, by the favour and countenance of the English, held that office, paid Rs 21,00,000 and every year settled his accounts punctually. Has in no way deviated from the path of duty or allegiance to the King and was willing to pay the established revenue for the present year; nevertheless His Majesty dismissed him from office at the instigation of his enemies. The writer does and must bear this or any stroke of the Royal wrath without swerving from the path of loyalty. Seeing that his only support is the English Government, that he was appointed to this office at the recommendation of the English, that he can retain the office by the Governor's favour alone and on no other ground, and that a certain person from his old and immutable enmity to the writer, has made use of his great power and authority in the Presence to the writer's prejudice, he requests to be informed whether he should continue to remain in or quit this place. Until the Governor's answer arrives, the writer will employ himself in comparing his accounts with the receipts of the treasury, and afterwards whatever the Governor commands, the writer will perform with his heart and soul. Hopes that the Governor will consider him a faithful and bounden vassal of the Company, and exert his influence in the writer's favour, that he may rest secure from the machinations of his enemies, save his honour, and manifest his zeal in the service of the Company. Requests that a speedy reply may be sent to this letter.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 52, pp. 18, 19. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 131.

Mar. 10. **113**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. News has arrived from Allahabad to the effect that on the 25th *Shavvāl*, K͟hwājah Ṣamad K͟hān received the royal dress as a symbol of his appointment to the faujdarship of Kora in place of Najaf K͟hān.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 53, p. 19. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 134.

Mar. 10. **114**. From Kishn Chand, Raja of Nadia. By the august favour and impartial justice of the Governor, Gōpī Nāth Ṭhākur (Taore) has been restored to the ancient mansion of Agradwip. His auspicious presence makes the writer's heart swell with joy and gratefulness, and the inhabitants of this country have recovered that peace and content which they had lost. Sends a *naẕr* and requests that it may be accepted.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 54, p. 19. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 140.

Mar. 12.* **115**. To Muḥammad Riẓā K͟hān. Has received the K͟hān's letter suggesting that a *dārōg͟hah*, a *vāqiʿah-nigār* and a *savāniḥ-nigār* together with a company of sepoys may be stationed at Kalpi. Approves of the suggestion and desires him in consultation with

* Mar. 16 according to the volume of copies.

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'Izzatu'd-Daulah Bahrām Jang [Mr Becher] to appoint upright and impartial persons to the different posts without delay, as this is the season for the coming of ships.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 68, p. 115. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 52, pp. 184-5. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 79.

Mar. 12.* **116**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the Khān's letter regarding M. Canonje and the other Frenchmen. Favours the establishment of *chaukīs* at Jalangi and Bhimniah, but says that the *chaukīdārs* should not be allowed to detain boats or imprison Europeans at their own sweet will. Their duty should be simply to write a report of all the boats and the Europeans who pass the *chaukīs* and to send it to the Khān and 'Izzatu'd-Daulah Mr Becher. The report should then be sent to the writer who after examining it will, if necessary, write to Raja Shitāb Rāy to intercept the boats at the Karamnasa. If this mild procedure is adopted, then not only will the *chaukīdārs* be prevented from committing acts of violence, but the Europeans also will be afraid to break the regulations; for if they do so, their guilt will have been proved, and they will have no ground for complaint.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 67, pp. 114-15. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 53, p. 185. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 79.

Mar. 13. **117**. To Jasārat Khān, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Dacca. Acknowledges the receipt of the Khān's letter.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 61, p. 111.

Mar. 13. **118**. To Sambhājī Ganēsh, *Ṣūbahdār* of Orissa. The two companies of sepoys about whom the addressee has written, have gone towards Orissa to survey the land. Desires him not to be so uneasy about the matter as the sepoys will not harm any one.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 62, pp. 111-12.

Mar. 13.† **119**. To Najaf Khān, *Faujdār* of Kora. Has received the Khān's letter saying that he is in a miserable plight owing to his having incurred His Majesty's wrath. Is very much concerned to learn this. It is His Majesty's foolish and selfish ministers who are the cause of his misfortune. Not only the Khān, but the English *sardārs* and all His Majesty's true well-wishers have suffered at their hands. When princes listen to the insinuations of their corrupt favourites and appoint persons of low origin to offices of trust, no one's life or honour can be secure. At the present time His Majesty has placed himself in the hands of such persons and it is at their instigation that His Majesty has thought fit to dismiss the Khān from the *Faujdārī* of Kora. Since it is not His Majesty's pleasure that the Khān should continue to remain at Kora, it behoves him to repair to Allahabad and deliver his accounts, so that his enemies may know that although His Majesty is displeased with him, he is as loyal and true as ever. But the writer does not wish the Khān to become a target for the arrows of the courtiers' machinations, and should his enemies, after his arrival at Allahabad, succeed in strengthening His Majesty's resentment against him so as to endanger his safety or honour, he should come to these

* Mar. 16 according to the volume of copies.
† Mar. 14 according to the volume of copies.

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provinces and settle at whatever place he likes, free from anxiety. The stipulated sum will be paid to him regularly, and the good wishes of the English *sardārs* will ever attend him. Thinks it quite probable that the villainies of his enemies will one day be detected, and he restored to the Royal favour. Assures him that the writer will be true to his word. The English *sardārs* may not like to oppose the Royal will, but they will not desert a true friend in his hour of need.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 63, pp. 112-13. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 51, p. 184. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 83.

Mar. 13. **120.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Some time ago Munīru'd-Daulah complained to the writer that the Raja's officers gave much trouble to the managers of the small *jāgīr* which was granted to him by the Nawab Ṣābit Jang [Lord Clive] in the province of Behar. Accordingly the writer addressed two letters, one to the Raja, and the other to Ashrafu'd-Daulah Mr Alexander on the subject. Has now learnt that the Raja having summoned Munīru'd-Daulah's son to his Court, subjected him to various indignities, and that the Raja's officers, in spite of the writer's orders, oppress the managers of the *jāgīr* more than before. Since Munīru'd-Daulah is second to none in loyalty to the Company and is devoted to it heart and soul, the way in which the Raja has behaved to him, is reprehensible. Addresses the Raja and Mr Alexander once more on the subject and directs the former to refrain from ill-treating Munīru'd-Daulah's son and the managers of his *jāgīr*. Let not another complaint from Munīru'd-Daulah reach the writer's ears, otherwise it will be bad for the Raja.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 64, p. 113.

Mar. 14. **121**. From Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. Has received the Governor's letter desiring him to advance two *lākhs* of rupees to Colonel Galliez. The writer is the vassal of the Company and ready to obey its commands. His present situation makes it necessary for him to put before the Governor a few particulars. For the last two months 200 of the Vazīr's sepoys have been quartered at Benares and are oppressing the inhabitants of that place. Two or three persons have been actually seized and sent into the Vazīr's presence. The people are so much frightened that they are almost ready to flee from their homes. It was usual for the writer, in paying the tribute to the Vazīr whenever a *qisṭ* fell due, to borrow the amount from the merchants of the city and send it to the Vazīr. The money was repaid to the merchants afterwards but before the second *qisṭ* fell due. Now owing to the disturbances created by the Vazīr's troops at Benares, the writer has been unable to pay one *qisṭ* to the merchants. He has informed Mr Coxe of the state of affairs, and supposes that Mr Motte has communicated the particulars to the Governor. Requests that Mr Motte may be directed to quiet the fears of the merchants and to restore business to its normal condition. In any case, the writer will perform his duty to the Company to the best of his abilities.

PS.—Has assisted Mr Motte in collecting seventy boats in these districts.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 55, pp. 20-1. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 141.

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Mar. 14. **122**. From the Vazīr. It is true that Mīr Qāsim has received protection at Gohad and begun to create disturbances, but his character and conduct are so detestable that no one has joined him, and excepting the Mahrattas who have advanced towards Hindustan, none has treated with him. And even they, when he begged them to help and to give him money for the purpose of attacking Bengal, laughed at his proposal. After this rebuff from the Mahrattas, he had recourse to his own finances, but they are in so poor a condition that he can pay his soldiers a daily wage of only four annas per head. Consequently his levies are very inconsiderable. The Governor can judge from this how little Mīr Qāsim is to be feared and what condition he has been reduced to. The writer did not write about Mīr Qāsim's schemes to the Governor previously, because he foresaw that they would end in nothing. Had he communicated all that he heard about those schemes to the Governor and had it proved false, it would have put him in an awkward position. He therefore contented himself with writing to Captain Harper about it. As far as the writer can judge, Mīr Qāsim will be disappointed. But as the friendship between the writer and the English is based on the strongest foundations, and as there is no separation between them and as their lives, fortunes and honour are united in a common cause, should Mīr Qāsim advance this way, by the blessing of God, the writer is ready to give him a warm reception and thwart his evil designs. What necessity is there for the writer to tell all this to the Governor? Is persuaded that should the writer meet any opposition or trouble from any quarter, the English *sardārs* will march a thousand *kōs* to his assistance. Repeats once more that as the writer and the English are united by every tie of friendship, should Mīr Qāsim show his face, the writer will be the foremost to oppose him. Has no doubt that he will be defeated and come to his deserved end. By way of precaution, the Governor should send General Barker to Patna and authorise him to march on hearing from the writer. Although he knows that the English forces are always ready to take the field, yet it is necessary that the General should have the Governor's previous permission to march, in order that he may start the moment he receives the writer's letter, and that there may be no necessity to consult the Governor, for at such a distance much time will be lost in correspondence. Writes these particulars by way of precaution. Otherwise he does not regard the affair of Mīr Qāsim as serious.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 56, pp. 21-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 145.

Mar. 14. **123**. From Munnī Bēgam. Although the Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah was taken from the world by a distemper which is often fatal, and there is no remedy left for the writer but patience, yet an anxious doubt remains in her heart. Mirzā Masītah and Charwide [Jāvēd ?] Khān and others who not knowing what honour is hold her in great contempt, attended the late Nawab in his last illness. He fondly imagined that they were his well-wishers: all they represented, was just and true. They lulled him into security; they permitted no person of authority to approach him or to prescribe for him; gave him their own medicines, and so artfully did they seduce his affection that he listened to none but them. Five or six days before he breathed his last, he became unconscious

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and was not master of his faculties. This interval the said persons occupied in seizing all they could lay hands on. Everybody was kept in ignorance of the Nawab's real condition. Whoever sent to inquire after the Nawab's health, was assured that His Excellency was better and in a fair way to recovery. It is believed that they made away with many jewels and a vast amount of cash. Raja Rājballabh who was entrusted with the management of the Nawab's household, joined the conspirators in the villainy and abetted their wicked designs. Has written to Mr Becher who will communicate the particulars to the Governor. Now that patience must be the writer's only comfort, she hopes and implores that the Governor will be pleased to seat Mubāraku'd-Daulah on the *masnad* in place of his late brother in order that the name of the Nawab Mīr Ja'far may be continued; and that the Council will write accordingly to Mr Becher and Muḥammad Riẓā Khān, and direct them to recover from Masītah and the other villains what they have stolen. This property the *Niẓāmat* owes to the Company, and it matters little whether it remains in her house or goes to the Company. Let the villains moreover feel the weight of justice that their example may have a deterrent effect on others, and that they may no more ingratiate themselves with noble families and by their arts and artifices bring about the destruction of their benefactors.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 57, pp. 22-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 128.

Mar. 14. **124.** To Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Gōbind Chand and Sheo Charan, son and grandson respectively of Mukand Chaudhrī, *Zamīndār* of Muḥammad Aminpur and other *parganahs* belonging to the *chaklah* of Hooghly, have represented that Mukand Chand, deceased, in his life time divided his *zamīndārī* equally among his three sons named Kishn Chand, Bindrāban and Gōbind Chand; that Kishn Chand has died leaving a son named Rādhā Nāth; that Bindrāban has also died leaving a son named Sheo Charan; and that now Rādhā Nāth, not being content with his own share, wishes to possess himself of the whole *zamīndārī*. Encloses the *'arẓī* of Gōbind and Sheo Charan, the complainants, and desires the Khān to inquire into the matter and see that each heir gets his due share of the property.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 65, p. 114.

Mar. 15. **125.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the Khān's letter intimating the death of his wife. Offers condolences.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 66, p. 114.

Mar. 15.* **126.** To the King. Although everybody said that Najaf Khān had forfeited His Majesty's favour, yet the writer gave little credit to the news. To speak the truth, the English *sardārs* did not expect that His Majesty would dismiss the Khān from his service. However His Majesty is master of his household and of his servants, and the sole manager of his affairs. In the past, whenever necessity arose, the English *sardārs*, out of loyalty to His Majesty and with a view to promoting his interests, represented to him frankly whatever they thought most advisable. It is quite conceivable (since all men are

* Mar. 17 according to the volume of copies.

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liable to make mistakes) that in advising His Majesty, they may have sometimes committed errors of judgment [but as to their sincerity, there can be no doubt of it]. It is plain, however, that in some respects His Majesty's views differ greatly from those of the English *sardārs*. In the present case, His Majesty has followed his own 'golden' will. The English *sardārs* will not say anything about it now. Later on His Majesty's sincere well-wishers will be separated from his false friends and it will be seen who gave him good advice and who misled him. Since His Majesty has been pleased to dismiss Najaf Khān from the *Faujdārī* of Kora, it only remains for the English to hope that to please them His Majesty will treat him generously. He is an old and tried friend of the English *sardārs*, and they flatter themselves that His Majesty will attach due importance to this fact and show the Khān a little consideration in spite of the feelings of resentment which His Majesty harbours against him. As far as the writer knows the Khān has now been accused of withholding the revenues or disobeying His Majesty's commands. As to the Khān's successors, it is said that His Majesty has agreed to accept a sum much less than what the Khān paid into the Royal treasury. Be that as it may, the writer is sure that when the Khān delivers his accounts, it will be found that not only he is not so great a sinner as he is said to be, but that his accusers are greater sinners than he.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 69, pp. 115-17. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 54, pp. 185-6. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 76.

Mar. 15.* **127.** To the Vazīr. When news of the dismissal of Najaf Khān from the *Faujdārī* of Kora reached the writer, he could scarcely believe it. He knew that the Khān had many enemies, but as the Vazīr's officers lived at the Court, the writer had no anxiety on that score. Is sure that the Vazīr must have felt indignation on learning the news, and that he will take to task his officers at the Court who have been so remiss in their duty, and who did not inform the Vazīr of the transaction in time much less prevent it from taking place. Had the Vazīr known that such a thing was going to happen, he would have travelled a thousand miles in order to help a friend of the English. Even now it is not too late. Since His Majesty has never rejected the Vazīr's petition, he should ask His Majesty to treat the Khān leniently and not to disgrace him. This much is still in the Vazīr's power. Hopes that in this affair, he will endeavour to please the English *sardārs*. The person that has been appointed in place of the Khān, is to pay only 14 *lākhs* of rupees, while the Khān paid more than 20 *lākhs* into the Royal treasury. It is clear that the Khān has been turned out of office by faction, and the King has been so much deceived that it is necessary that the Vazīr for the maintenance of his dignity, the gratification of the English *sardārs*, and for the credit of both himself and the English nation, should befriend and protect Najaf Khān. Has also written to the King on the subject.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 70, pp. 117-18. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 55, p. 186. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 90.

* Mar. 17 according to the volume of copies.

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Mar. 16. **128.** From Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. It is well known that the writer enjoys the protection of the English, and possesses no higher wish than that he, his brothers, his sons and his friends, may lay down their lives in the service of the Company. As regards the movements of Mīr Qāsim and the attitude of the Courts of Allahabad and Faizabad towards him, the writer has already communicated what came to his knowledge, to Mr Motte, who must have informed the Governor. Notwithstanding this fact and the fact that the Governor receives constantly authentic news from various sources by the *ḍāk*, the writer, as desired, communicates what he has heard to His Excellency. Mīr Qāsim who once resided with the Rohillas, is most probably still encouraged by them in his hopes. And should he by the assistance of the Sikhs and the Mahrattas succeed in making war upon the English, the Rohillas also will join him. Having repaired to Gohad, he began to levy troops and sent *vakīls* to the Sikhs and the Mahrattas soliciting their assistance. But all his schemes have come to naught. As he paid his troops from the proceeds of his jewels and as in selling them recently he sustained a great loss and was consequently obliged to stop payment, several of his *sardārs* deserted him with all their followers, and his force is dwindling day by day. It is reported that the Sikhs have made peace with Nēval Singh in consideration of a sum of money. What their future designs are, is unknown. The Mahrattas continue to remain at Karauli plundering the Rājpūts of Jainagar, and it is supposed that after settling matters in that quarter, they will advance this way. The Mahratta *vakīls* who came to Allahabad, were introduced to His Majesty by the Vazīr. Later, they accompanied him to Faizabad where they received dresses. They were then sent back with presents for four Mahratta *sardārs*, in company with an envoy from the Vazīr. The envoy bore a letter to them inviting them to advance to Kalpi and assuring them that after their arrival at that place, the Vazīr would co-operate with them and settle matters to their satisfaction. It is probable that the Mahrattas will advance towards Kalpi. There are several other items of news which the writer has heard, but as they lack confirmation, the writer postpones the communication of them to some future occasion. The Vazīr is now the sole manager of the King's household, and his authority is unlimited. Najaf Khān has been dismissed from the office of *Faujdār* of Kora, and Ḥusāmu'd-Dīn Khān, a dependant of the Vazīr's appointed in his place. Observes that Najaf Khān is a *sardār* of note and has a fine body of troops under his command. A letter from the Governor to the Khān and another to Colonel Galliez will greatly encourage the Khān. Let him not apply to others for protection. With respect to the Governor's suggestion that in view of Mīr Qāsim's designs on Bengal, the writer should strengthen the frontiers of his country and establish friendship with the principal *zamīndārs* in his neighbourhood, replies that there is in these parts only one *zamīndār* of consequence, namely, Raja Hindū Pat and with him the writer has intercourse. The Governor will be satisfied to learn that Raja Hindū Pat is firm in his friendship for the writer and that the latter will not neglect to use every means in his power to ensure the safety of his country. Has

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now 3,000 horse and 1,000 foot ready for service. In addition to this force he can put into the field, in case of necessity, those of his troops who are at present engaged in police work. As soon as he hears of the approach of an invader, he will inform the Governor and oppose the passage of the enemy into Bengal. Tells the Governor not to be anxious about the matter. The writer is devoted to the English cause, since his very existence as well as the prosperity of his country depend upon his alliance with the English.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 58, pp. 23-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 141.

Mar. 17. **129.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Mīr Qāsim had assembled about 15,000 horse and foot, but since he was unable to advance them their pay, most of them deserted him. Among the deserters is Dān Shah, a relation of the Jāṭ who acted as Mīr Qāsim's *Bakhshī*. Dān Shah is a very intriguing man and consequently his loss is felt severely by Mīr Qāsim. His Afghān *sardārs* have also deserted him, so that he is now left with an insignificant body of troops in the fort of Behet. However, he has his *vakīls* with the Mahrattas and has proposed to them that if they will espouse his cause, he will pay them a crore of rupees immediately on his taking possession of Bengal. The Jāṭs are divided into two parties. One party is treating with the Sikhs with the object of exterminating the Mahrattas and the other is entreating the Mahrattas to make war on the Sikhs. The Sikhs are receiving money from both parties. On the 24th, the Sikhs were in camp on the outskirts of the Jāṭ country and the Mahrattas near Jaipur.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 59, pp. 24-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 134-5.

Mar. 17. **130.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has received the Governor's letter regarding the remissness of the *chaukīs*. Is day and night engaged in the affairs of the *Sarkār* and does not for a single moment neglect his duty. Before the arrival of the Governor's letter, Mr Alexander had received intelligence to the effect that about twenty or twenty-five Frenchmen were proceeding from Chandarnagar with merchandize. The writer immediately informed the *chaukīdārs* stationed between Monghyr and Patna, and issued general orders to all the *'āmils* enjoining them to apprehend the Frenchmen wherever they might be found and to send them to Patna. Has also dispatched *harkārahs* in every direction in search of the Frenchmen. On being traced, they will be apprehended, and notice sent to the Governor. A most diligent search has been made for the Frenchmen from Monghyr to the Karamnasa, but without effect. It appears that they have not yet come up the river so far. Anyway every *chaukī* has been warned to redouble its vigilance. As regards M. Canonje, when Mr Alexander and the writer were recently making the circuit of the province, he arrived at Patna and took up his residence within the French factory. With him or a little after him came three boats under a *parvānah* of the *Bakhsh-bandar* in the name of the French Company, and the goods were deposited in the French factory. On the writer's return to Patna, he sent a message to M. Canonje to the effect that it was illegal for a private European to reside in the country for the

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purpose of carrying on trade. M. Canonje made answer that he had not come to Patna clandestinely but openly, that he had the *parvānah* of the *Bakhsh-bandar* with him and had not met with any interruption from the *chaukīdārs* between Hooghly and Patna. The writer told him in reply that the *parvānah* was made out in the name of the Company and not in his, and that it was necessary for him to return to Chandarnagar, for the writer would neither permit him to remain at Patna nor to proceed further. The writer at the same time placed *harkārahs* upon him. He has promised to set out in two or three days and only requests permission to put his affairs in order. The writer was not previously aware of this expedition of M. Canonje and as he had passed the *chaukīs* from Hooghly to Monghyr unmolested, he was suffered to pass further, and the *chaukīdārs* did not apprise the writer of the matter. But the moment M. Canonje arrived at Patna, and the writer discovered that he was a Frenchman, *harkārahs* were placed upon him. Will send him along with two or three other Europeans who have been arrested, to Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Is by no means deficient in watchfulness. Will now redouble his activity so that nothing shall escape his notice in future.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 60, pp. 25-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 135.

Mar. 17. **131**. From the Vazīr. Has received the Governor's letter. Perceives that artful persons whose business it is to propagate falsehoods, have told the Governor such things as have no foundation in fact, and made him uneasy; and that they are attempting to break the bond of friendship existing between the English and the writer. It is utterly impossible for the writer to describe the attachment he has for the English and which he hopes is mutual. As the chief characteristics of the English are truth and justice and as the writer is a lover of those qualities, he is confident that the friendship between him and the English will perpetually receive new strength, and that neither he nor the Governor will in their actions deviate from its path. In any case, friendship and prudence demand that should a designing person make insinuations, one should first of all see whether they are true or false. If false, it is one's duty to punish the author of those insinuations, in order that it may have a deterrent effect on others. Indeed, it would be better if the Governor made the writer acquainted with whatever information His Excellency might receive against him, to enable him to clear himself of the false charges. Is dedicated heart and soul to the alliance existing between him and the English *sardārs* and is day and night intent on it. Assures the Governor that he will at no time and in no way neglect what is due to their friendship, and that if (which God forbid) any one should entertain thoughts of invading Bengal by way of Oudh, the writer will be the foremost to oppose and punish him. While his soul is in his body, he will never cease punishing that enemy, and if anything should happen after he has sacrificed his life to the duties of friendship, it will not be his fault, for he will have done his duty. Declares before God that to his last breath he will not deviate from the path of friendship. For the greater satisfaction of the Governor, the writer has sworn an oath and written it on the back of the Qurān. This will be forwarded to the

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Governor by Captain Harper to whom matters have been explained fully. Although the Governor has not required such an oath from the writer, yet owing to the purity of his heart and intentions, he has sworn it voluntarily. It is well known that an oath on the Qurān among the Mussulmans is the most sacred, for it is their belief that by it they will be judged in the next world. Can his sincerity be doubted after he has gone to such a length? This letter is to be regarded in the light of a pledge; he has therefore affixed his seal to the oath he has taken on the Qurān. Let the Governor banish from his mind all suspicions regarding the writer. As to the alleged secret correspondence of Mīr Qāsim with the King, replies that as the English *sardārs* have continued firm in the duties of loyalty to His Majesty and are ready to serve him with all that the truest zeal can inspire, the allegation appears to be groundless and is unworthy of credit and that some one has deceived the Governor. His Majesty would never conceive the idea of corresponding secretly with Mīr Qāsim. And as the writer is true to his word and has sworn by his faith, it is hoped that the Governor will believe his representations in this respect as in others. By the blessing of God, as long as the writer lives, all will be well. However, as disturbances have arisen in the four corners of India, the Governor would be well advised not only to renew his attentions to the King, but to show that he takes in His Majesty's gratification ten times more pleasure than he did formerly. The Governor should also by means of concessions, petitions, professions of friendship and by frequent and judicious compliments obtain His Majesty's favour and approbation, so that His Majesty may have greater reason to rejoice in the friendship of the English *sardārs*. Has written this by way of a friendly suggestion, and hopes that the Governor will shape his conduct accordingly.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 61, pp. 26-8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 145.

Mar. 17. **132.** *Mīr Qāsim to the Niẕām. If the addressee will take the writer by the hand and establish him in Bengal, he will proceed to the Deccan; otherwise it is well; he must look to himself. The French place their hopes in the writer. It is on their account that he has made this request. Is bound to await the result. Misfortune has pursued him, but no one gives him comfort. Has come out of retirement after four years. Sees no friend except Shah Abdālī and he is involved in his own affairs in Afghanistan. If he could advance into India, he would help the writer. The Mahrattas and the Sikhs are a worthless people; and the rajas are taken up with their own affairs. There is no one in the Deccan to whom he can apply for help. What can he do? What expedient can he devise? No matter with whom he makes an alliance, he finds himself deserted and betrayed; such is his misfortune. What can he do? Where can he go? With whom can he confer? The sorrows of his heart cannot be expressed; and he is afraid that it will fare with him as it did with Bhoran [?] Singh who, when he asked Bifchaw's [?] advice, was told 'I cannot tell you now. It requires time to consider'.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 62, p. 28. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 149.

* Enclosure of a letter from Captain Harper.

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Mar. 19. **133**. From Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. Has already informed the Governor of the affairs of this part of the country. Fresh news has arrived from Agra to the effect that negotiations between the Jāṭs and the Sikhs having fallen through, the two armies came to an engagement; that the Sikhs were utterly routed and fled towards Delhi; that Nēval Singh is pursuing them; and that Mīr Qāsim's troops are in a mutinous mood for want of pay.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 63, p. 29. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 141.

Mar. 19. **134**. To the *'Āmil* of Mahmudshahi. Has been informed that the *chaukīdārs* of Mukhra, Swaruppur and Nattor have extorted Rs 55 from Rām Kishn *Foṭahdār*, a *gumāshtah* of Mr Lloyd. Of this sum, Rs 40 were taken from him at Mukhra, Rs 11 at Swaruppur and Rs 4 at Nattor. Desires that the sum may be recovered from the *chaukīdārs* and sent to Calcutta, and they warned not to commit such an offence again.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 71, p. 118.

Mar. 20. **135**. From Sambhājī Ganēsh, *Ṣūbahdār* of Orissa. In compliance with the Governor's request, the writer permitted the English troops under Major Achmuty to march through this province, and they were conducted by a person appointed by the writer himself to the pass of Rajghat in the district of Balasore. Has now been informed by the *Nāib* of Balasore that four gentlemen with a small party have arrived at the frontier of Nilgiri. Has received no information on the subject from the Governor and is therefore surprised that any gentleman should enter the writer's territories without his knowledge. Requests to be informed of the errand of those gentlemen and of all other particulars.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 64, p. 29. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 147-8.

Mar. 21. **136**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received his several letters containing news regarding the west. Desires him to continue sending such letters.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 72, p. 48.

Mar. 21. **137**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Acknowledges the receipt of four baskets of grapes sent by him through Shaikh Burhānu'd-Dīn; and offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 73, pp. 118-19.

Mar. 21. **138**. To Kishn Chand, Raja of Nadia. Has been informed that he owes a sum of money in respect of his *ta'alluqah* in Burdwan. Reproves him for this and desires him to pay up all the arrears. If he delays, he will be dispossessed of the *ta'alluqah*.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 74, p. 119.

Mar. 21. **139**. To Raja Mahindar [Dūlab Rām], *Dīvān* of Murshidabad. Has received the Raja's letter intimating the death of the Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah, and saying that by orders of 'Izzatu'd-Daulah [Mr Becher] and the Nawab Khān-i-Khānān [Muḥammad Rizā Khān], Raja Rām Sēvak continues to act as *Nāib* to Raja Rājballabh. Expresses grief at the premature death of the Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah, and prays God to show mercy to his soul.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 75, p. 119.

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Mar. 21. **140**. To Raja Murlī Dhar. Has received the Raja's letter containing news regarding the west. Desires him to continue to send news.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 76, p. 119.

Mar. 21. **141**. To the King. Intimates that Saifu'l-Mulk Saifu'd-Daulah Najābat 'Alī Khān Shahāmat Jang, *Nāzim* of Bengal, died of small-pox on the 11th *Zu'l-Qa'd*, and requests that His Majesty may be pleased to grant Mubāraku'd-Daulah, his successor, the customary *sanad*, *khal'at* and other marks of honour.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 77, pp. 119-20.

Mar. 21. **142**. To the Vazīr. Intimates the death of the Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah, and requests the addressee to procure from His Majesty the customary *sanad*, *khal'at* and other marks of honour for the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah, Saifu'd-Daulah's successor.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 78, p. 120.

Mar. 22. **143**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Informs the Governor that the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah has been installed on the *masnad* of the *Niẓāmat* and that he himself has been confirmed in the office of *Nāib*.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 65, p. 29. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 125.

Mar. 23.* **144**. To the King. Has already endeavoured to intercede with His Majesty for Najaf Khān, who, in the writer's opinion, is a victim of circumstances and has not committed any offence. For some time many busybodies have been industrious in misinterpreting the representations of the English *sardārs* to His Majesty, and have told him that when the English *sardārs* offer advice or present petitions to His Majesty, their real object is to dictate to him. Protests that such a thought is far from the minds of the English *sardārs*. Desires to know on what occasion or occasions they acted against His Majesty's wishes. They never asked nor will ever ask His Majesty to recall Munīru'd-Daulah to the Court. All they did was to expatiate upon the qualities of wisdom and uprightness which Munīru'd-Daulah possesses to an eminent degree. Whether His Majesty reinstates him or not rests with His Majesty alone to decide. As regards Najaf Khān, the English *sardārs* have never supported him in any act of disobedience nor, as far as they know, has he been guilty of any. The writer in his previous *'arẓī* requested His Majesty to treat the Khān leniently owing to his services, both past and present, and owing to the fact that he enjoys the friendship of the English *sardārs*. Let His Majesty think for a moment that if he inflicts punishment or disgrace upon Najaf Khān who is a true friend of the English *sardārs* and a sincere well-wisher of His Majesty, what a reflection would be cast on the English! The world will conclude that they have forfeited His Majesty's confidence and their reward for years of service, and that His Majesty wishes that the news of his resentment against the English and their friends may spread throughout Hindustan. As the writer is not aware that the English *sardārs* have committed any fault or that His Majesty's mind has been alienated from them, he has strong hopes that his peti-

* Mar. 22 according to the volume of copies.

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tions regarding Najaf Khān will be granted. The Khān will never disobey His Majesty and will employ his qualities of courage and bravery not in opposing His Majesty but the enemies of the house of Tīmūr. In short he is a fine soldier and will one day be of service to His Majesty. Requests His Majesty to send a *qaul* under his seal to Najaf Khān that he may leave Kora for Allahabad with his mind at rest. This act of kindness on His Majesty's part will greatly oblige the writer and strengthen the attachment of the English *sardārs* to His Majesty. All his loyal subjects will extol him to the skies and say that His Majesty, the shadow of God, does not consider a man guilty without fully inquiring into his case, and that he listens to the representations of the English *sardārs* notwithstanding that their enemies at the Court have his ear. Has contented himself with these few words, the meaning of which, however, cannot be contained in as many volumes.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 79, pp. 120-2. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 56, pp. 186-8. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 77.

Mar. 23. **145**. To the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Congratulates him on his being installed on the *masnad* of the *Nizāmat* and says that a salute of guns has been fired in honour of the occasion.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 80, pp. 122-3.

Mar. 24. **146**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has already informed the Governor of the arrival of M. Canonje and two other Europeans [at Patna]. 'Yesterday' the 10th *Zu'l-Qa'd*, the writer sent M. Canonje and the two Europeans under a guard of sepoys and *harkārahs* to Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. The other Frenchmen about whom the Governor wrote that they had left Chandarnagar and proceeded up the river, will also be apprehended if they are found in this province, and the Governor will be informed of the fact.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 66, p. 29. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 135.

Mar. 26. **147**. From the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Informs the Governor of his accession to the *masnad* of the *Nizāmat* and of the ceremony of his installation.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 67, p. 29. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 128.

Mar. 26. **148**. From [Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān], *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Sends bills for Rs 94,000 in favour of the Calcutta Treasury on account of the Hooghly revenue.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 68, p. 29. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 115-16.

Mar. 27. **149**. To the Vazīr. Has been informed that the addressee is not favourably disposed towards Mr Motte. It appears that some designing person has prejudiced the addressee's mind against that gentleman Assures the addressee that Mr Motte who is an upright and intelligent man, will never interfere in matters which do not concern him, and is interested only in the welfare and prosperity of the country. Requests

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the addressee therefore to show him favour and attention. This will greatly please the writer.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 81, p. 123.

Mar. 27. **150.** To the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Has received the Nawab's letter intimating that 'Izzatu'd-Daulah [Mr Becher] and Masīḥu'd-Daulah have in concert with Muḥammad Riẓā Khān installed him on the *masnad* of the *Nizāmat*, and that he has conferred on the Khān the *khal'at* of the *Niābat* which office he has been holding so long. Offers congratulations.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 82, p. 124.

Mar. 27. **151.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has received the Raja's letter containing news of the west. Desires the Raja to continue writing to him whatever happens in that part of the country, without delay.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 83, p. 124.

Mar. 27. **152.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Is glad to learn that the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah has been installed on the *masnad* of the *Nizāmat*, and that the Khān has received the *khal'at* of the *Niābat*.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 84, pp. 124-5.

Mar. 28. **153.** To the Vazīr. Some time ago the Nawab Qamaru'd-Daulah [Mr Verelst] wrote to the addressee requesting him to send some grain to Bengal, but up till now it has not arrived. It appears that owing to pressure of business, the addressee has forgotten about it. Remarks that the distress of the people is so great that it cannot be described and requests the addressee to send by water as much grain as may be available with the greatest dispatch.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 85, p. 125.

Mar. 28.* **154.** To the Vazīr. Has been informed that a panic prevails among the inhabitants of Benares, as Ashraf 'Alī Khān who has gone there on behalf of the addressee, oppresses the merchants and other people. As in the opinion of the wise, the prosperity of a country depends on the welfare of its inhabitants, particularly merchants, and it is clearer than the sun that the addressee is a man of wisdom and prudence, Ashraf 'Alī Khān must be acting without his knowledge. Requests him therefore to dismiss the Khān from that post in order that the panic may be put a stop to.

Cop. I., 1769-70, no 81A, pp. 123-4. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 57, p. 188. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 90.

Apr. 1. **155.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. After the defeat of the Sikhs, the Mahrattas who were encamped in the territory of the Raja of Jainagar [*i.e.*, Jaipur], advanced into the country of the Jāṭs and entered into correspondence with Ranjīt Singh, a relation of Nēval Singh. Consequently he met them at a small distance from the fort of Kumher, his residence. They are now pillaging

* Mar. 27 according to the volume of copies.

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about in the neighbourhood of Bharatpur. A party of 300 horse under the command of Takōjī Hulkar marched to Gohad where the commander had a private conference with Mīr Qāsim. On his departure he was presented with jewels and other articles by the latter. This has raised the spirits of Mīr Qāsim's adherents. He has now with him 3,000 horse and foot.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 69, p. 30. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 135.

Apr. 1. **156**. Instructions issued by the *Nizāmat* to Sayyid Muḥammad Khān and the other officers appointed as inspectors of the European ships at Kalpi. Be it known to them that they are to proceed forthwith to Kalpi and there establish a *chaukī*. And when ships belonging to the English, the French, the Danes and the Dutch come up the river, they must be compelled to stop there and not permitted to proceed further up, until the officers have taken strict account of the cannon, small arms and other military stores which may be on board the ships. And if any ship should have two tiers of guns mounted or have otherwise the appearance of a man-of-war, the officers must detain her until further orders. It is unusual for a merchant ship to carry more than twenty-four guns and stores in proportion. And should the crew of a ship exceed 250 men, the officers must likewise prevent her from sailing up from Kalpi. The officers are to search every ship and report all circumstances to the Presence [the *Nāzim*]. They should not relax their vigilance or abate one jot in their strict supervision, and must shut their ears and hearts against all temptations. In short, they should not be induced by any consideration to deviate from the path of duty. They should be careful not to use violence without just cause and should give the strictest orders to their subordinates on no account to receive gratuities from anyone. Should the officers disobey these orders, they will be severely punished.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 70, pp. 30-1. Abs. R. 1767-71, p. 132.

Apr. 4. **157**. To Kishn Chand, Raja of Nadia. Has received the Raja's letter intimating the arrival of Gōpī Nāth [at Krishnagar]; and saying that peace and contentment once more reign in his *zamīndārī*, and that the Raja is heartily engaged in the collection of the revenue. Expresses pleasure at this, and enjoins him to promote the prosperity of the *zamīndārī* and to pay the revenue punctually.

Cop. I., 1770, no 1, p. 1.

Apr. 5. **158**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the Khān's letter saying that the Governor alone can obtain *sanads* of confirmation from His Majesty for the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah, that a draft of an application to be sent to His Majesty by the Governor has been forwarded to His Excellency by the Nawab; and that in the matter of the *pēshkash* the Governor's advice will be followed. Approves the draft and says that he has already written to His Majesty what was needful. As to the *pēshkash*, whatever sum may be customary, should be paid.

Cop. I., 1770, no 2, p. 1. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 58, p. 188.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 79.

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Apr. 5. **159.** To the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. To the same effect as the foregoing, adding that he will, as desired, enjoin the officers stationed at Kalpi to search foreign ships to be most careful in the discharge of their duties.

Cop. I., 1770, no 3, pp. 1, 2. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 59, p. 188. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 82.

Apr. 5. **160.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has received his letter together with five baskets of pomegranates and one basket of grapes through Shaikh Burhānu'd-Dīn. Offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770, no 5, p. 2.

Apr. 7. **161.** From Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. Has already informed the Governor of the defeat of the Sikhs at the hands of Nēval Singh. After that event, the Mahrattas advanced from Karauli at the solicitation of Ranjīt Singh, a descendant of Sūraj Mal. Ranjīt Singh is Nēval Singh's rival and resides in the fort of Kumher. The Mahrattas have penetrated to the very fort; and as Ranjīt Singh has not paid them the stipulated sum of money, they have begun ravaging and laying waste the dependencies of both chiefs without distinction. Nēval Singh is encamped with his forces under the walls of Dig, but as yet it is uncertain whether he will fight or buy off the Mahrattas. As to the state of this city which, under the protection of the English, has been celebrated for order and security, what should the writer say? For the last two months, the Vazīr has quartered 200 sepoys within the walls of the city. They have imprisoned *Shiqdār* Missir and seized the jaggery goods. Being under no one's control, the sepoys have spread consternation among the merchants, every one of whom expects to be oppressed in his turn. Trade is at a standstill and many people have fled away. All the writer's efforts to quiet their fears have had no effect, nor have his representations to the Vazīr met with any success. Formerly it was usual for the Vazīr to address the writer about such matters and the writer always obeyed his orders. He is still as obedient as ever. He pays his *qists* regularly every month and has never failed in his duty. The present attitude of the Vazīr towards him is therefore all the more wounding. Is attached to the Company heart and soul, and as he is wholly dependent upon it, he has laid his case before the Governor without reserve.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 71, p. 31. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 141.

Apr. 7. **162.** From Hindū Pat, Raja of Bundelkhand. Has received the Governor's letter. Blessed be the Almighty who has decreed that the writer's connection with the English should be so intimate and durable! Learns that the Sikhs having been defeated by the Jāṭs, have returned to their own country, and that the negotiations between the Mahrattas (and the other powers) have not yet taken a definite shape. When they do, the writer will inform the Governor. [Mīr] Qāsim possesses neither power nor courage to attempt anything. Is day and night thinking of the friendship the Governor has for the writer.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 72, pp. 31-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 142.

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Apr. 8.* **163.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has received the Raja's letter enclosing a paper of news. Desires him to continue to send news immediately he receives it.

Cop. I., 1770, no 4, p. 2. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 60, p. 188. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 85.

Apr. 9. **164.** From Najaf Khān, *Faujdār* of Kora. Recapitulates the substance of the Governor's letter, and says that his assurances of protection have raised his heart from the depths of affliction and swelled it with gratitude. Matters at present stand thus. Before the receipt of the Governor's letter, Colonel Galliez repeatedly wrote to the Khān that he should deliver up the country to the new *'āmil* and repair with his attendants and troops to the sublime Presence; that this conduct would be most agreeable to the English *sardārs*; and that he would be graciously received by His Majesty. As the satisfaction of the English *sardārs* is the chief object of his heart, he complied at once with Colonel Galliez's directions, and making over charge of his office to the new *'āmil*, he repaired to Allahabad where on the 26th of the month he was honoured with an audience of His Majesty, and also had a meeting with the Colonel. Through the latter's favour, the writer attends the Court daily, and his enemies who had maliciously slandered him to the King, lowered him in the Royal estimation, and brought him to such a sorry pass, are now put to shame, though they still thirst for vengeance. They still persist in showing him enmity and are contriving to protract his trial so that they may disperse his troops and have him at their mercy. Is confident that as he is an adherent of the Company, the Governor will not suffer his enemies to effect his ruin or bring about his disgrace. If His Majesty, through the Governor's mediation, takes him back into his Royal favour, it is well, otherwise with one stroke he dies or will enter the Company's service. From the day he was appointed *Faujdār* of Kora to the present hour, he has paid the revenue punctually, and never embezzled the money of the *Sarkār* and dissipated it for his own pleasure. Nor has he in any way failed in his duty and allegiance to His Majesty. Moreover the carrying out of the commands of the English *sardārs* has always been his first object. He now follows the instructions of Colonel Galliez and thanks to the Governor's friendship feels no anxiety in his misfortune or apprehension from his enemies. Is awaiting His Majesty's decision. Whatever it may be, it will be communicated to the Governor. May the Almighty long preserve him, the redressor of wrongs and the protector of faithful servants! Hopes that he will consider the writer a faithful adherent of the Company and so attend to his situation that the world may acknowledge it. Is ready to sacrifice his life in the Company's service. Refers the Governor to Colonel Galliez for further particulars.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 73, pp. 32-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 131.

Apr. 9. **165.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has received the Governor's letter. Makes professions of friendship for the Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah and explains his case as follows. While Mr Alexander and the writer were recently touring the province, the *gumāshtahs* of the

* Apr. 5 according to the volume of copies.

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late Khwājah Sunyah [?] and some other people preferred complaints to Mr Alexander that they held villages in the Nawab's *jāgīr* by particular *sanads* at a fixed rate, that they had regularly paid their rents to the former *'āmils* of the *Niẓāmat* according to the rates specified in the *sanads*, that since the time the Nawab came into possession of the *jāgīr* till the end of last year they had paid the same rent to him, but that Muḥammad Shujā' Khān, the Nawab's son, has lately violated the terms of the *sanads* by sending his people into the villages to take them under their charge and assess them at the full value, though the old rates have never been increased in the past. In consequence of these complaints, Mr Alexander, it seems, wrote to the Nawab's son but to no effect and the complaints continued to come in. A second letter was then written to him desiring him not to raise the rents. In the meantime the *aimmahdārs* or 'tenants of indulgence' under the crown came and complained that their villages had been seized by the Nawab's son. Another letter was written to him. Does not know what reply he sent to that letter, but so much is certain that he did not redress the grievances of the complainants. After the return of Mr Alexander and the writer to Patna, the complaints were renewed. Upon this Mr Alexander ordered Shujā' Khān to be summoned to the cutcherry and reprimanded for illegally raising the rents. The writer, however, represented to Mr Alexander that it would be derogatory to the rank of the Nawab's son to be summoned to a public cutcherry and reprimanded. Consequently Mr Alexander changed his mind and sent for Shujā' Khān to Bankipur, and there at the cutcherry but in private questioned him about his behaviour. Shujā' Khān replied that he had acted under his father's orders and could not release the villages. Refers the Governor for further particulars to Mr Alexander's letter. If the writer has interfered in the matter, it has been to serve Shujā' Khān. It is extraordinary that any one should so misrepresent the fact to the Governor. Has no business or connection with the Nawab's *jāgīr*, of which he is the sole master, and with which he may do what he pleases. From the beginning up to the present moment the writer has been of service to the Nawab in the matter of his *jāgīr*. Let the Governor make inquiries if he pleases, and if it is proved that the writer sent for Shujā' Khān to the cutcherry, the writer deserves the Governor's censure, if not, he hopes that the Governor will order his informant to adhere to the truth in future.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 74, pp. 33-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 135.

Apr. 10. **166**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. As the *Puniā* of the year 1177 [*Faṣlī*] is near at hand, the Governor is requested to come to Murshidabad and take part in the ceremony according to custom. The Governor's august presence on the occasion will greatly conduce to the regulation of the collections particularly in the present state of things.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 75, p. 34. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 125.

Apr. 10. **167**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Vāriṣu'llah and Rāmā Nand, *ta'alluqdārs* of Barbakpur, belonging to the *chaklah* of Hooghly, have just complained to the writer to the effect that the said *ta'alluqah* has been the property of their ancestors from time immemorial, that some time ago the Khān confirmed them in possession of it and appointed a *sonṭābardār*

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to guard it; that the *Faujdār* of Hooghly also sent a sepoy to the *ta'alluqah* for the same purpose, but that now Nōb Kishn has forcibly dispossessed the complainants of the *ta'alluqah*, enclosed it with bamboo sticks, and stationed his own people there. Encloses the complaint and desires the Khān to make an exhaustive inquiry into the matter, to give a just decision and punish the guilty. Has already forwarded the *'arzīs* of both the complainants and the defendants to Mr Becher, to whom he refers the Khān for particulars.

Cop. I., 1770, no 6, p. 3. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 61, p. 189. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 79.

Apr. 12. **168**. To Muhammad Rizā Khān. Has received the Khān's letter enclosing Raziu'd-Dīn Muhammad Khān's application for a company of sepoys [to be stationed at Hooghly]. Grants the application and intimates that the sepoys will shortly reach Hooghly.

Cop. I., 1770, no 7, p. 3. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 61A, p. 189. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 79.

Apr. 13. **169**. From the King. Has received the Governor's *'arzī*. Najaf Khān's dismissal is due to his misconduct. For four years he mismanaged the district of Kora and retained his post simply through His Majesty's indulgence. But this year his misconduct became too flagrant to be overlooked. It appears that he has not paid the troops anything, and that the country has been so much ruined by his oppression that next year it will hardly produce half the usual revenue. In consequence of this, His Majesty was obliged to recall him. His Majesty, however, did not dismiss him from the Royal service but ordered him to attend the sacred Presence, and perform the duties of allegiance near His Majesty's person. Truly the English *sardārs* enjoy in the highest degree His Majesty's approbation and regard. His Majesty knows how firmly they support those whom they have once called their friends. Will, for the sake of the English *sardārs*, treat Najaf Khān well. Let not the Governor be uneasy about the matter or believe the word of interfering persons. It has been His Majesty's invariable rule never to believe them. Is confident that he will receive from the Governor nothing but the most prudent advice, and that the Governor will perform nothing but the most loyal deeds. Observes that Najaf Khān's dismissal is not contrary to the customs of the English, and that what has happened at His Majesty's Court, happens often among the English. Posts are not inheritances, nor do all servants hold posts. Najaf Khān has been dismissed for incapacity. In such cases His Majesty does not arrive at a decision until he satisfies himself as to the merits and demerits of a servant. However Najaf Khān is still his servant and His Majesty shows him greater regard than before. It is more than eleven months since Munīru'd-Daulah left the Court. Since then not a rupee of the Bengal tribute has been paid. His Majesty has therefore been dependent on loans for his expenses. Desires the Governor to send the *qists* of the tribute without delay. Colonel Galliez must have informed him of the distress His Majesty's *Sarkār* has suffered through want of money. Cannot divine the cause of the delay. Owing to the emptiness of the

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treasury and the urgency of His Majesty's expenses, the *mutaṣaddīs* have borrowed the sum of 10 *lākhs* of rupees from the Vazīr. And though two months have expired and the *qiṣts* are due, not a rupee even of that sum has been received. It is necessary that the Governor should order the payment of all the *qiṣts* together with the sum due to the Vazīr.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 76, pp. 35-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 118.

Apr. 13. **170.** From Najaf Khān, *Faujdār* of Kora. Has already informed the Governor of his situation. It is now worse than before. His enemies representing to the King that he was refractory and disobedient, succeeded in alienating His Majesty's mind from him; and though innocent, he was dismissed from the *Faujdārī* of Kora. Has now come to Allahabad with his people, and acting on Colonel Galliez's advice, delivered his accounts for examination. Although His Majesty gave the writer his word and promised again and again that he would himself examine the writer's accounts, although he assured the Colonel that he would confirm the writer in the *risālah*, and although he gave his written assent to a memorial which the writer sent from Kora, yet His Majesty does not abide by his engagements, influenced as he is by the writer's enemies who are aiming at his complete ruin and have taken into their own hands the managing of his affairs. By protracting the inquiry into his accounts, they want to reduce him to their own state and engineer a mutiny among his troops. Several letters which were written to his officers with that object, he has delivered to Colonel Galliez who must have forwarded them to the Governor. There are many more such letters in the writer's possession. On the one hand, he is exposed to the wiles of his enemies, on the other, he has the misfortune to see the King so ill-disposed towards him. He has completely gone over to the side of the writer's enemies and does not show him the smallest favour. Nor has he yet issued orders about the pay of the troops which now amounts to 6 *lākhs* of rupees. In short, he has been so misled by the interested that even the Colonel has no influence over him. In his behaviour he affects kindness, but in his heart he disapproves it. Does not know what the writer's enemies mean by this or how far they would carry their malevolence. As to His Majesty's answer to the *'arẓīs* which the Governor has written in the Khān's favour, His Excellency will easily discern the masterly skill with which it is written. It has been alleged that the writer has laid the country waste and has not paid the troops any money. Happily Captain Brooke has seen with his own eyes what pains the writer took and what success he met with in rendering the country prosperous; but although numbers of His Majesty's servants have seen and can attest the same, yet His Majesty's suspicion of the writer prevails over the strongest testimonies. During the last five years that he has held the *Faujdārī* of Kora, he is not conscious of having been ever remiss in his allegiance to the King, in his care of the country or in the punctual discharge of the revenue. This year that the *kharīf* has almost been ruined by the draught, he repeatedly asked that an *amīn* should be appointed to prepare an estimate of the losses, but the idea was not approved. However, he collected what

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the country produced at that time and the *rabī'* proving more favourable, he made up the deficiency in the revenue. His enemies have caused him to be dismissed and put another man in his place, making a most extraordinary deduction in the revenue which has been settled at 14 *lākhs* of rupees only. What fault has the writer committed? Conceives that his fault in their eyes is his attachment and adherence to the Company, of which they do not approve and from which their jealousy has sprung. As it is well known that he is a dependant of the Company, he hopes that the Governor will see that he is restored to his former honours and does not fall before the malignity of his enemies. Refers the Governor for further particulars to Colonel Galliez.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 77, pp. 36-7. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 131.

Apr. 13. **171**. To the *Zamīndār* of Kanika. At the end of the year 1175 [Bengali] a ship arrived from Masulipatam at Balasore. The *sārang*, after completing his business there, was returning to Masulipatam, when owing to a heavy storm, he was obliged to stop and cast anchor in the Kanika river. Upon this the addressee's people seized the ship together with the *khallāṣīs* whom they treated with great inhumanity. After some time the *sārang* found means to escape and went to Balasore where he applied to Mr Marriot for redress. Mr Marriot accordingly wrote both to the *Ṣūbahdār* of Cuttack and the addressee but without effect. Has been informed that a ship which has lately arrived at Calcutta from Kanika, is the same ship as was detained so unlawfully by the addressee's people. Has consequently taken steps to attach her. Wants to know if it is really the same ship. If so, it will be delivered to its owner who is a servant of the English Company and resides at Masulipatam. If not, it will be detained at Calcutta until the addressee either restores the other ship and its cargo to the owner or pays the price thereof.

Cop. I., 1770, no 8, p. 4. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 62, p. 189.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 94.

Apr. 15. **172**. To Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Has received many complaints to the effect that the Khān levies heavy duties on the grain which is taken from Calcutta to Hooghly by water; and that consequently the price of grain is very high at the Ghyretty camp. Desires him not to levy any duties on the grain destined for the camp.

Cop. I., 1770, no 9, pp. 4, 5. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 63, p. 189.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 88.

Apr. 17. **173**. From the Vazīr. Understands what the Governor writes about Najaf Khān's dismissal and the remissness of the writer's servants [at the Court] in not informing him (the writer) of that event in time. Notwithstanding the multifarious grievances which the writer has against Najaf Khān and which Captain Harper will fully explain to the Governor, the writer more than once addressed not only the King but many courtiers saying that it would not be to His Majesty's interest to dismiss Najaf Khān, but His Majesty would not listen. The ways of princes are strange and at times it is very difficult to cause them

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to change their minds. The King has reserved to himself the management of the districts and of his household. Even the writer who is so old a vassal of the Court, is not permitted to interfere. He is concerned only in conducting negotiations, in maintaining friendly relations with the English and in controlling certain extra accounts which are exclusive of the *band-o-bast* of the Royal household. This much control of the Royal affairs he owes to the good offices of the English *sardārs*, without whose assistance he would never have obtained a footing at the Court. Seeing that His Majesty's expenditure exceeded his income, the writer set aside his own urgent affairs, and in obedience to His Majesty's commands, undertook the management of the sublime *Sarkār* not with any ulterior motives, such as the removal of a particular officer, or for some personal advantage, but simply and solely with a view to pleasing His Majesty. As there is no separation between the writer and the English *sardārs*, and as he has the highest regard for the Governor's friendship, he will write to the King once more not to disgrace Najaf K͟hān. The Governor knows well in the case of Munīru'd-Daulah what pains the writer took, how many letters he wrote, and how many times he interviewed the King. Before the arrival of the Governor's letter, he (the writer) had written to the King pleading Najaf K͟hān's cause, though his conduct rather savoured of rebelliousness. Now that the Governor's letter has arrived, the writer will continue to intercede for the K͟hān. No servant of the house of Tīmūr has ever suffered disgrace without just cause, much less will the K͟hān who is a vassal of the English. Has declared a thousand times that whoever is a friend or servant of the English, he is the writer's friend; and whoever is their enemy, he is the writer's enemy. His dependence on the English increases daily and, by the blessing of God, will always increase, for when they are ready to befriend and protect Najaf K͟hān with such earnest sincerity for the trivial services which he has rendered to the Company, surely they will not do less for a person who is attached to them heart and soul who regards their honour and interest as his own, and who in their service will spare neither life nor fortune. Such a person is entitled to enjoy their friendship. Since he knows that the English *sardārs* are bound by their principles to befriend him, he derives the greatest pleasure and confidence from the fact, and firmly hopes that they will do what is best for him, and that the friendship between him and the English will daily acquire new strength.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 78, pp. 37-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 145.

Apr. 19. 174. From the King. Recapitulates the substance of the Governor's *'arẓī* of the 23rd March, and assures him that His Majesty never gives credit to the words of interested people. On the contrary he does whatever after mature deliberation he judges suitable to time and circumstances. The case of Munīru'd-Daulah is in point. He was banished from the Court not because His Majesty had conceived a personal dislike for him, but because of his selfish and obstinate disposition, which at first created discontent in his own mind and afterwards led to those consequences of which he now complains. But as this subject has already been exhausted, it is useless to refer to it

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again. As regards Najaf Khān, His Majesty is so convinced of his fidelity to himself and of his attachment to the English *sardārs* that even before the receipt of the Governor's letter, His Majesty had sent to Najaf Khān a *shuqqah* containing words of encouragement and assurances of favour by the hand of Yāqūt Khān, a person of credit, and had summoned Najaf Khān to the Presence. Regards his honour as interwoven with His Majesty's. God is his witness that he will not deviate from this pledge by a hair's breadth. When the English *sardārs* from motives of pure friendship are so anxious to uphold Najaf Khān's dignity, how much more anxious should His Majesty be, who has provided for him and regarded him as his servant unto death. What power has any one to cast an angry glance at him? Reckons the honour of all his servants without exception very precious. No dependant of his throne, not even his brother, dear as life, Shujā'u'd-Daulah has any power to ill-treat any of His Majesty's servants, particularly a person for whom the Governor has interceded. It must, however, be remembered that loyalty should not be made conditional on employment, but that employment and all other favours are the rewards of loyalty.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 79, p. 39. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 118.

Apr. 20. **175**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Several Calcutta merchants have complained to the writer to the effect that some time ago they advanced large sums of money for salt to the *Zamīndār* of Raimangal, but that up till now they have not received any salt, nor has the money been returned to them. Has accidentally come into possession of two *parvānahs* which the Khān has written in the case Tilōk Rām and others *versus* Muḥammad 'Askarī Bēg *Muta'ahhid*, Mahārājindar Kishn Chand Bahādur, *Zamīndār* of Nadia, and Srī Kanth and others, *Zamīndārs* of the *chaklah* of Jessore. These *parvānahs* show that the Khān has granted a monopoly of the salt trade for three years to Tilōk Rām. What surprises the Governor most is that notwithstanding this, the *Zamīndār* of Raimangal has accepted advances of money from a number of Calcutta merchants. Is greatly displeased to learn all this. Encloses the *parvānahs* and desires the Khān to withdraw the monopoly granted to Tilōk Rām, in order that every merchant may be free to trade in salt.

Cop. I., 1770, no 10, pp. 5, 6. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 64, pp. 189-90. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 79.

Apr. 20. **176**. To Srī Kanth, *Zamīndār* of Raimangal. To the same effect as the foregoing, adding that he should act according to the orders shortly to be issued by Muḥammad Riẓā Khān on the subject of the salt trade, and to return the money which Tilōk Rām and others have advanced to him for salt.

Cop. I., 1770, no 12, p. 6. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 65, p. 190. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 93.

Apr. 20. **177**. To Kishn Chand, Raja of Nadia. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 66, p. 190. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 87.

Apr. 22. **178**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Qāsim 'Alī Khān [Mīr Qāsim] with a few attendants remains with the Rānā of

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Gohad, and the Mahrattas who had penetrated into the Jāṭ country, are employed as before in ravaging the country on the southern side of the Jumna, in company with Ranjīt Singh, the youngest brother of Nēval Singh, and have stationed garrisons in several forts in order to establish the authority of Ranjīt Singh in the country. Nēval Singh is still where he was formerly. News has been received from Delhi that the Nawab Najību'd-Daulah who has continued inactive so long at Najibabad, has entered into an alliance with the Mahrattas with a view to subjugating Koil [*i.e.*, Aligarh] and the other districts to the south of the Jumna, and has, according to the latest accounts, arrived at Sikandarabad. He has already despatched troops to take possession of those districts, and sent for Mirzā Javān Bakht, the King's son, together with Majdu'd-Daulah and Yāqūt 'Alī Khān from Delhi, that he (Najību'd-Daulah) may lend an air of justice to the conquest and under the shadow of the Royal authority proceed as far as Akbarabad. Accordingly the above-mentioned personages are making preparations to set out for [?] Delhi and join the Nawab Najību'd-Daulah.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 80, p. 40. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 135.

Apr. 22. **179.** To the *Dārōghah* of Larikol. Has been informed that the addressee has detained some boats of the Committee which were laden with salt and were in charge of Gangā Rām on the ground that the *dastak* which they bore was too old. Desires the addressee to release the boats and to send the *dastak* to Calcutta that it may be renewed.

Cop. I., 1770, no 13, pp. 6, 7.

Apr. 23. **180.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. A *harkārah* has just arrived with the news that on the 9th the Regent [of Bharatpur] sent a challenge to the Mahrattas to quit their position under the walls of the fort and give him battle. In the meantime he received intelligence to the effect that Takōjī Hulkar and Jai Rām were on their way to meet Najību'd-Daulah, upon which the Regent put his army in motion and attacked the Mahrattas. A fierce battle ensued which went on even after nightfall. At last the Mahrattas made a furious charge and played havoc with the troops of Sumroo and Madoc. The Regent who in the beginning of the fight was mounted on an elephant, got down and made his escape on horseback. It is not known what has become of Sumroo and Madoc. The Jāṭs deserted in great numbers and joined the *sardārs* of Kumher, but a cannonade was kept up on both sides. As the *harkārah* left the field the same night the particulars of the battle are yet unknown. 'Tomorrow' the writer will receive a full account, and will forward it to the Governor.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 81, p. 40. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 135.

Apr. 23. **181.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has been informed that Muḥammad Yār Khān has for some time ceased to receive his pension of Rs 18,000 *per annum*. Desires to know who originally granted him the pension and for what service or services; also how long he had been enjoying it, who stopped it and for what reason.

Cop. I., 1770, no 14, p. 7. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 67, p. 190.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 85.

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Apr. 23.* 182. To Kishn Chand, Raja of Nadia. Intimates that some European soldiers have fled away from the fort and are wandering about in the neighbouring country. Desires the Raja to issue orders to all the *thānahdārs* and *chaukīdārs* in his *zamīndārī* to make a thorough search for the deserters, and if found, to send them to Calcutta with great care.

Cop. I., 1770, no 11, p. 6. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 68, p. 190.

Apr. 23. 183. To Kishn Chand, Raja of Nadia. Gōkul Chand Shah has just complained that he sent a quantity of salt by water to Chanduria, a place belonging to the Raja's *zamīndārī*, but that the *'amlah* of the Raja demand duties on the salt and obstruct its sale, notwithstanding that the boats bear the Collector's *dastak*. Disapproves of this and desires the Raja to issue orders to his *'amlah* prohibiting them from obstructing the sale of the salt.

Cop. I., 1770, no 15, p. 7. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 68 A, p. 190. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 87.

Apr. 24. 184. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. On the evening of the 9th Nēval Singh advanced towards Ghurden which is about six *kōs* from Dig, and it being resolved that the army should take its position there, detachments were sent to escort the baggage. As the resolution of encamping at that place was sudden and unexpected, scarcely any *risālah* was prepared, and the army was considerably weakened by the absence of many people who returned for their necessaries to Dig. In the meantime, the Mahrattas began to advance and form themselves near the fort of Sankah, and sending on their heavy baggage to Mathura, prepared for battle. Kunvar Dan Shah and Mūlā Nand were strongly of opinion that it would be best to risk an action as they were within two *kōs* of the enemy and might in vain seek for such an opportunity again. Consequently notwithstanding the remonstrances of Madoc and Sumroo who objected to the proposal on the score of the lateness of the hour, the opinion of Dan Shah prevailed and he accordingly pushed forward from the main army with about 2,000 choice horse composed of Rajputs and the natives of Bedawar. The Mahrattas opposed them with rockets and such of their cannon as were ready and did terrible execution amongst Dan Shah's horse. Ṭhākur Dās Shankar was killed and Kunvar Kilak dangerously wounded. The whole party was either dispersed or slain. Troops were ordered to support Dan Shah, but the affair was decided before they could join him. He made his escape with great difficulty and took shelter behind the artillery. Hitherto the battle had been fought with rockets and artillery but now the sword was brought into requisition. Raushan K͟hān, Shaik͟h K͟hān Muḥammad and Gōpāl Rāo alighted from their horses and charged sword in hand. Gangā Parshād and Jōdh Rāj led on the Regent's army. After two hours' close engagement Nēval Singh was obliged to retreat within the lines of Sumroo, who had formed a square after the European fashion, and had for a long time sustained repeated shocks of the enemy. Finding himself in a tight corner, Nēval Singh threw away his ornaments lest he should be recognised by the enemy, and

* Apr. 20 according to the volume of copies.

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with a few attendants reached the fort in safety. Several *sardārs* of rank entered it immediately after and assured him of their steadiness and perseverance in the task of retrieving the defeat. Never was a greater number of *sardārs* killed and wounded in any battle. As to the rank and file, it is computed that 5,000 horse and foot were wounded and 2,000 killed. All the artillery was left on the field except two light pieces which Sumroo has brought off. The army was so completely broken that numbers returned after wandering about seven *kōs* from the battle-field. Had it not been for the intrepid behaviour of Madoc and Sumroo in the retreat, not a single man could have escaped the swords of the Mahrattas. The gates of Dig are barricaded, but the Mahrattas have not ventured within the reach of the cannon. Their loss is supposed to be considerable and they are very anxious to conceal it. It is rumoured that the Regent will send for the Sikhs once more.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 82, pp. 41-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 135.

Apr. 26. **185.** From the King. Has received authentic news from Delhi and Farrukhabad that the Mahrattas have arrived in the vicinity of Agra and entered into an alliance with Najību'd-Daulah, and that the allies have formed a plan for overthrowing the power of the Jāṭs and acquiring possession of their country and wealth in the name of His Majesty's son [Mirzā Javān Ba͟kht] whom they have asked to advance from the capital. G͟hāzīu'd-Dīn, the traitor, has also set out from Farrukhabad to join the Mahrattas. They have sent His Majesty *'arzī* after *'arzī* professing loyalty, and inviting him also to move his standards towards Agra. As the English *sardārs* have at all times and in all places shown His Majesty loyalty and friendship, and as His Majesty has a scrupulous regard for his word whether written or spoken, he places the gratification of the English *sardārs* above every other consideration, and does not wish to undertake anything without their concurrence. And though the Mahrattas have been soliciting His Majesty to let them know his intentions, he has postponed his final decision until he hears from the English *sardārs.* The attacking power of the Mahrattas and their present contest with the Jāṭs ought to be well weighed and pondered, for should these disorders grow and gather strength, a grave crisis will arise. At present the foundation of mischief is weak and unsettled. Now is the time to destroy it by some well-chosen act of policy. Whereas should the evil spread further, it will not be stopped without a great deal of trouble. Seeing that the Governor and the other English *sardārs* are the pillars on which the Moghal Empire is supported, such affairs should claim all His Excellency's attention and energy. His Majesty has written to the same effect to his brother, dear as life, Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Desires the Governor to consider and resolve what the exigency of the time requires, and communicate his opinion to the throne, for His Majesty values his advice above that of all other servants. Since the expedition to Agra is fully resolved upon and the Prince will advance from the capital to Agra at the invitation of the Mahrattas, and since there is no one but Mūsavī K͟hān about him, it would be advisable to order Najaf

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Khān to proceed to the capital and accompany the Prince in the expedition. Is anxious to know the Governor's sentiments on the subject.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 83, pp. 43-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 118-19.

Apr. 26. **186.** To the *Āmlah* of the *Shah-baudar*. Jai Narāyan Ghōsāl complains that he sent on behalf of the Committee 3,000 maunds of salt on thirty boats from Calcutta towards Khonia, Shujaatpur and Sylhet, but that the addressees considering the *dastak* too old, have detained the boats and demand duties on the salt. Desires the addressees immediately on receipt of this *parvānah* to release the boats, regarding it in the light of a freshly-prepared *dastak*.

Cop. I., 1770, no 16, p. 8.

Apr. 27. **187.** To the Sēths Khush-Ḥāl Chand and Udey Chand. Has received the addressees' letter complaining that they have not heard from the Governor for a long time; and saying that they have had a great desire to come to Calcutta to see His Excellency, but that owing to circumstances over which they had no control, they have not yet been able to do so. Replies that although he has been silent so long, yet the friendship that exists between the writer and the addressees is so sincere that it does not require the aid of forms and formalities.

Cop. I., 1770, no 17, p. 8.

Apr. 28. **188.** To the Vazīr. Considering that intimate friendship between the addressee and the English has existed so long, and considering also that that friendship is based not only on treaties but common interest, it is impossible for anything to disturb it. The addressee has nothing to gain by exchanging the joys and comforts of peace for the cares and horrors of war. And as for the English, it is patent to the whole of Hindustan that they have no desire for further conquest. So long as the addressee and the English remain friends, they will not only be of help to one another but will also be feared by their enemies. But if, which God forbid, they cease to be friends, the consequences will be most serious. But why should the writer trouble the addressee by discussing such a contingency? Where friendship is sincere and based on treaties, such a discussion is superfluous. Has written so much because the addressee hinted in one of his letters that the writer had lent too willing an ear to the stories of busybodies. Has reviewed his own conduct and that of the other English *sardārs* and is unable to understand what made the addressee arrive at that conclusion. It is true that on the subject of Najaf Khān's dismissal and on that of the addressee's silence in the midst of warlike preparations made on every side, the writer used rather strong language; but it did not show that he had believed the stories of interested people. It showed his sincerity and frankness—qualities which should, above all, govern the relations between the addressee and the English *sardārs*. Says plainly (and he hopes that the addressee will not be offended) that at a time when important negotiations are going on among the chiefs of Hindustan, the addressee's complete silence on every subject is not only unfriendly, but also impolitic, first, because it endangers that unity of policy which has been the keynote of the relations

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between the addressee and the English *sardārs*, and secondly, because it affords interfering people an opportunity for inventing stories. As regards Najaf Khān's dismissal, it appeared to be the result of an elaborate intrigue, and it was surprising that the addressee who enjoys so much influence at the Court, could not effect anything in that affair. These are the only two subjects on which the writer expressed himself with unusual warmth. Now that he has given a candid explanation of the matter, he believes that the addressee will be satisfied. The addressee has already given sufficient proof of his sincerity in his dealings with the English *sardārs*. The oath that he has now taken on the Qurān, testifies to the fervour of his heart and the depth of his feelings. Is unable to thank the addressee sufficiently for this. May God give both the addressee and the English *sardārs* strength to fulfil the treaties they have made with each other, and may complete harmony always exist between them.

Cop. I., 1770, no 18, pp. 8-10. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 69, pp. 190-2. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 90.

Apr. 28. **189.** To Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. Has received the Raja's letter concerning the oppression that is being committed at Benares by Muḥammad Ashraf, an officer of the Vazīr's. It is a characteristic of people of low origin that when they are appointed to an office, they exceed the bounds of their authority. It appears that Muḥammad Ashraf's conduct proceeds from his innate wickedness and not from any orders from the Vazīr. Anyway, the writer has sent a letter to His Excellency to the effect that if Muḥammad Ashraf is oppressing the inhabitants of Benares with his approval, the trade will be ruined and the city depopulated. Is sure that as soon as the Vazīr receives the letter, he will take steps to stop the oppression and that peace will once more reign in the place.

Cop. I., 1770, no 19, pp. 10, 11. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 70, p. 192. Abs. I., 1766-71, pp. 84-5.

Apr. 28.* **190.** To the King. It is most gracious of His Majesty to ask the advice of the English *sardārs* regarding the invitation that he has received from the Mahrattas to proceed to Agra. This is an honour, however, which the English *sardārs* do not deserve. One of the virtues of the English is that they love to speak the truth and hate flattering any one. That is why they have always offered His Majesty frank advice, and have never suggested a measure which, in their opinion, was not conducive to the welfare and prosperity of the house of Tīmūr. In the present case, their advice to His Majesty is the same as they have given before. From the very beginning they have considered the Mahrattas unreliable, and nothing has happened since to make them change their opinion. In the past they were invited several times to Northern India by the *umarā*; how far they performed their promises and proved their loyalty, His Majesty knows very well. They have always been and will ever be hostile to the emperors of Hindustan for the simple reason that they owe their rapid rise to power and their conquest of vast territories to the weakness of the Empire. Can it then be sup-

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posed that they will support it against their own interests? It is plain that their sole object is to serve themselves, and that whatever they do, will be directed towards that end. Finally they will become masters of the whole empire and His Majesty will depend on them for his daily bread. In short, the Mahrattas, instead of being a help to His Majesty, are great obstacles in his way. His Majesty therefore must never support this perfidious people in the destruction of the chiefs of Northern India. On the contrary, he should with the co-operation of those chiefs endeavour to drive the Mahrattas back to their own country. What more can the writer say? It has been presumptuous on his part to advise His Majesty. However His Majesty's permission and the consciousness of the fact that the English *sardārs* are devoted to his cause, must be the writer's excuse. As regards His Majesty's proposal to send Najaf Khān to Delhi for the purpose of escorting Prince Javān Bakht to Agra, replies as follows. Although Najaf Khān will perform whatever task is entrusted to him, with the utmost fidelity and to the best of his abilities, yet the case of the young Prince is different. It is a fact that many people of low origin have established themselves at His Highness's Court. The Khān's going there will cause a good deal of heart-burning and quarrelling among them, so that the safety of the Prince, instead of being secured, will be jeopardised. Moreover, the Nawab Najību'd-Daulah is supreme in authority at Delhi, and it would be inadvisable to send Najaf Khān there without first sounding the Nawab in the matter. If Najaf Khān is sent to Delhi to take entire charge of the Prince's affairs, the Nawab Najību'd-Daulah will greatly resent it; and if the Khān goes there in an inferior capacity, no useful purpose will be served by it. Has already expressed his sentiments on the subject of the Khān's forfeiture of His Majesty's favour. At present he can only say that whatever indulgence is shown to the Khān, will be regarded as shown to the English *sardārs*.

Cop. I., 1770, no 20, pp. 11-13. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 71, pp. 192-3. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 77.

Apr. 28.* **191.** To Najaf Khān, *Faujdār* of Kora. Has already told the Khān that the English *sardārs* heartily sympathise with him in his misfortune. Has also advised him as to the course he should pursue. The Khān knows very well that the English *sardārs* have done all that they could for him, but so far as His Majesty's affairs are concerned, there is a limit beyond which the English *sardārs* cannot go. They can entreat and exhort His Majesty, but they cannot compel him. It is a characteristic of His Majesty's that no sooner he hears a bad report against a person, than he believes it and loses his temper. But after some time his good nature asserts itself and his anger passes away. Opines that if the Khān does not submit to the Royal will, His Majesty will get more angry with him. Advises him therefore to 'bow his head' and try to regain His Majesty's favour slowly and gradually. Has already given the Khān strong assurances that whenever he finds his stay at Allahabad disagreeable, he should come to Bengal where his stipend of two *lākhs* of rupees *per annum* which the English have guaranteed to him, shall be paid to him free of all deductions and

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exempt from all conditions; and that when fortune smiles again, they will endeavour to restore him to his former office. In the meantime the Khān should not accept any commission which may necessitate his separation from the English.

Cop. I., 1770, no 21, pp. 13, 14. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 72, pp. 193-4. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 83.

Apl. 28.* **192.** To the Vazīr. Has already offered thanks to the addressee for giving fresh pledges of friendship. Assures him that the writer and the other English *sardārs* are greatly impressed with his sincerity, and that nothing will shake their belief in it. The English *sardārs*, on their part, are ready to give him pledges of their sincerity and to support him in any undertaking that may tend to his welfare and happiness. Hopes that the friendship between the addressee and the English will daily increase, and that motives of self-interest will fail to weaken its foundations.

Cop. I., 1770, no 22, pp. 14, 15. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 73, p. 194. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 90.

May 2. **193.** From the Vazīr. Supposes that the Governor has heard of the victory obtained by the Mahrattas over the Jāṭs. Has heard from a reliable source that the Nawab Najību'd-Daulah has joined the Mahrattas, and that the other Rohilla *sardārs* taking their cue from him, have opened correspondence with them. The Nawab Najību'd-Daulah has invited Prince Javān Bakht from Delhi, and has written to His Majesty that he has determined, under the auspices of the Prince, to take the offensive against the Sikhs and the other enemies of the Empire. Other accounts say that Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān has set out to join the Mahrattas. In view of these events His Majesty has deputed Kishn Narāyan, an officer of the writer's at the Court, to explain the state of affairs to the writer. His Majesty is most anxious as to the consequences of these events and indeed the writer too has his fears. As he has not hitherto undertaken anything without first consulting the English *sardārs*, he requests the Governor to deliberate over the matter and let him know what measure should be adopted on this occasion. If the Governor would at the same time write a letter of encouragement to His Majesty, it would be good policy, especially as His Majesty has been taught by busybodies to believe that the English *sardārs* are (which God forbid) offended with him on account of Najaf Khān's dismissal from the Royal service. Refers the Governor to Captain Harper's letter for other particulars.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 84, p. 44. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 146.

May 2. **194.** From Najaf Khān. Is anxiously awaiting the Governor's reply to his letter. His present situation is as follows. Owing to the machinations of his enemies His Majesty has not fulfilled any of the promises which he made concerning him to Colonel Galliez. On the contrary His Majesty has appointed Shujā'u'd-Daulah's *mutaṣaddīs* to examine his accounts and has also withheld the pay of his troops. Such being the case he has little hope of being reinstated in his office. The

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King is no longer his own master. His ministers are all in all, so much so that whatever they recommend he approves. Notwithstanding the letters which the Governor has written in the Khān's favour, His Majesty listens to the insinuations of his enemies. They have told His Majesty that if the writer remains at the Court, the English *sardārs* will continue to intercede for him until he is restored to his former office, and have advised His Majesty to send him on some distant expedition, so that the mediation of the English *sardārs* may be rendered useless, and he being driven from one part of the country to the other, may at length be altogether worn out. Strange that the King should be so much under the influence of his ministers as to be incapable of following his own will. Has no refuge except the Governor's favour. Is awaiting His Excellency's advice which he will follow whole-heartedly. His chief request is that the Governor should not allow him to be separated from his friends and benefactors, the English *sardārs*.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 85, pp. 44-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 131.

May 5.* **195**. To the King. Has already written to His Majesty on the subject of the overtures which the Mahrattas have made to him. Their past conduct is sufficient proof of their perfidy. If further proof were needed, it is afforded by the fact that they are at the present moment carrying on friendly negotiations with Ghāziu'd-Dīn Khān, that arch-traitor, who has been guilty of every crime that a servant can commit in respect of his master. The object of the Mahrattas in securing the friendship of that accursed wretch is perhaps to make him an instrument for every outrage they intend to perpetrate. His Majesty will shortly see with his own eyes the truth of this prediction. Is it possible for a people who have usurped the best and most fertile parts of the Empire and established their sovereignty everywhere, to pay homage to the throne? His Majesty has not perhaps forgotten the insolent demands they made in the year 1180 A. H.—demands which were not only disloyal but were also calculated to bring the English nation into discredit. Advises His Majesty therefore to sever all connection with the Mahrattas and to place his confidence in such people only as deserve it. Who these people are His Majesty already knows by experience. To convince His Majesty that these are not mere empty words, the Governor has ordered two battalions of troops to advance from Azimabad to Buxar in order to be in readiness to repulse any foe that may be presumptuous enough to invade the territories of His Majesty and the Nawab Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah. And as the latter also is ready with his troops to defend them, no one will dare disturb the peace of the country, and it will be proved to the world that, notwithstanding the mischievous tales invented by interfering people, the English *sardārs* are firm in their loyalty and devotion to His Majesty and that the latter is as favourably disposed towards them as before.

Cop. I., 1770, no 23, pp. 15, 16. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 74, pp. 194-5. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 77.

May 5.* **196**. To the Vazīr. Has received the addressee's letter requesting the writer's advice about the negotiations that are going on between the Mahrattas and the other chiefs of Hindustan. Has also been

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informed of what the addressee has told Captain Harper. Remarks that it is very difficult to ascertain the real views of a people who are always on the move thinking of creating some new disturbance. However the fact that the Mahrattas and Najību'd-Daulah have admitted Ghāziu'd-Dīn Khān to their alliance clearly shows that it is directed against His Majesty's interests. The victories that the Mahrattas have recently gained, have swollen their heads, and unless some one curbs their ambition, they bid fair to dictate to all. There is no one in the whole of Hindustan able to perform that difficult task except the addressee. Knows very well what heroic deeds he performed at Panipat, and how great a share he had in driving the Mahrattas from Hindustan at a time when they were much more intoxicated with the pride of power than they are now. All eyes are at this moment turned towards the addressee; and Hindustan hopes that he will not let her children be food for the swords of the haughty Mahrattas, and thinks that he alone can hold the balance between them and the rest of the Empire. Approves of his proceeding to the frontier of Kora in the event of affairs taking a serious turn; and in order that no one may accuse the English of inactivity at this critical time, the writer has ordered two battalions of troops to proceed from Azimabad to Buxar. When the enemies of the Empire see the addressee and the English so united and prepared, they will think twice before they invade the territories of the addressee and His Majesty. Refers the addressee to Captain Harper for further particulars.

Cop. I., 1770, no 24, pp. 16, 17. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 75, pp. 195-6. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 90.

May 6.* **197**. To the King. Expresses surprise at His Majesty's complaining that the Royal tribute is eleven months in arrears. His Majesty is apparently labouring under a mistake which the writer hastens to clear up, seeing that the honour of the English is involved in the question. Encloses a copy of the Royal account received from the officials at Murshidabad. The account shows that the arrears are due for five months and not eleven. The writer did not expect that His Majesty would show his displeasure with the English without fully inquiring into the matter. If the persons to whom he grants receipts, do not pay the Royal money in stipulated time, the English are not to blame. They have always paid the tribute regularly and punctually, but this year the case is exceptional. Owing to the continuous drought and the consequent failure of crops, scarcity of grain and distress and mortality among the people the revenues have considerably decreased, while the expenditure remains the same and is greatly in excess over the revenues in spite of all the economy which the English are practising. Consequently if the payment of the Royal tribute is delayed for a few months, it is hoped that His Majesty will not attribute it to backwardness on their parts but will regard them as helpless in the matter. Has again and again told His Majesty that he is heartily ready to obey the Royal commands at all times and in all circumstances.

Cop. I., 1770, no 25, pp. 17, 18. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 76, pp. 196-7. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 77.

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May 6. **198.** Account of the Royal tribute enclosed in the foregoing.

		Rs.	A.	P.
Amount paid in the month of June	1769	25,100	0	0
" " " " July	"	1,61,000	0	0
" " " " August	"	2,96,508	11	7[?]
" " " " September	"	2,49,767	4	0
" " " " October	"	1,10,000	0	0
" " " " November	"	3,35,482	0	5
" " " " December	"	20,000	0	0
" " " " January	1770	3,53,000	0	0
" " " " February	"	66,000	0	0
" " " " March	"	1,25,000	0	0
" " " " April	"	1,88,100	0	0
Total amount paid in 1769 and 1770		19,29,958	0	0
Amount due for 1769		3,54,871	1	5¾
" " 1770		26,00,000	0	0
Total amount due for 1769 and 1770		29,54,871	1	5¾

Cop. I., 1770, no 26, pp. 18, 19.

May 9. **199.** From the King. The Mahrattas and Najību'd-Daulah have actually met and agreed, so the report goes, to invite His Majesty to Agra and tell him plainly that if he accepts their invitation, it is well, otherwise they will think of some other measures to prosecute their scheme for conquest. As His Majesty puts no trust in any one but the Governor and the other English *sardārs,* he requests His Excellency's advice as to what he should do in the circumstances. Considers that his proceeding to the capital at the present juncture is advisable for several reasons. First, the honour of the Royal house will be saved. There is an old proverb to the effect that worldly possessions should be sacrificed to save life but life itself should be sacrificed to save honour. Secondly, His Majesty's going to Agra will greatly strengthen the hands of Najību'd-Daulah and the other *sardārs.* Thirdly, the present is the most favourable time for His Majesty to re-conquer the dominions of his ancestors. Notwithstanding these considerations, however, His Majesty will not think of marching towards his capital unless he secures the assistance of the English *sardārs.* Should the Governor approve of the above idea, he requests that troops may be sent to 'attend his stirrup'. Last year, the Governor consented to allow four complete battalions to accompany His Majesty in case he decided to march to the capital. In the present year as the Mahrattas and Najību'd-Daulah have united and made mighty preparations for war, it is expedient that His Majesty should second their endeavours by putting a numerous and well-appointed army in the field. The Governor should, therefore, over and above the four battalions already promised, order four or five more to join His Majesty without delay. His Excellency should also urge the Vazīr to be ready with his troops. Also,

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the officer who will be put in charge of the Royal family and effects at Allahabad may be directed to perform his duty with care and vigilance, to co-operate with His Majesty's son and the *sardār* who may be left behind, and to evacuate the fort for the accommodation of His Majesty's *maḥal*. Encloses a paper of intelligence which has just been received. Asks the Governor once more not to delay the sending of the five additional battalions and to regard His Majesty's commands on this point as the most urgent.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 86, pp. 45-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 119.

May 9. **200**. News from Akbarabad [*i.e.* Agra]. It is rumoured that the Mahratta *sardārs* asked the Nawab Najību'd-Daulah why he had taken possession of the Royal revenues of the province of Delhi. The Nawab replied that if he had not done so, the Sikhs would have usurped the revenues. Upon this the Mahrattas said 'We will manage the Sikhs. We insist upon your and Nēval Singh's giving up the province. Write to His Majesty to come hither. Should His Majesty refuse to come, some other plan must be devised.' It appears that some of the Mahratta *sardārs* are in favour of an alliance with Najību'd-Daulah, while others are opposed to it. It has been proposed that Najību'd-Daulah should invade the Jāṭ country on one side of the Jumna and the Mahrattas on the other side. Ranjīt Singh will thus be crushed and ruined.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 87, p. 46. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 113.

May 9. **201**. From [Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān], *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Will shortly set out for Murshidabad to attend the *Puniā* in accordance with the orders of Mr Becher and the Nawab [Muḥammad Riẓā Khān].

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 88, p. 46. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 116.

May 9. **202**. From Kishn Chand, Raja of Nadia. Has given the strictest orders to the *chaukīdārs* of his *zamīndārī* to apprehend all Europeans who may be found wandering about the country.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 89, p. 47. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 140.

May 9.* **203**. To Jānūjī Bhōnsla, Raja of Nagpur. It is a great pity that opportunities for personal interviews among chiefs even though they be neighbours and friends, are so very rare. If it were not so and if they did not entrust the conduct of important negotiations to their *vakīls*, the settlement of affairs would not be protracted for years. The fact of the matter is that the *vakīls*, as a class, are untrustworthy and consequently the few that are trustworthy are not considered so by the *sardārs* of Hindustan. The negotiations that are going on between the Raja and the English are a case in point. At first Zainu'l-Ābidīn Khān was deputed to Nagpur to negotiate a treaty with the Raja, but owing to the latter's distrust of him, he returned to Bengal without accomplishing his object. Afterwards the writer, with a view to a speedy conclusion of the treaty, sent the Raja two agreements, one signed

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and sealed by the Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah and the other by the English *sardārs,* fully persuaded that the Raja would send in return a similar agreement containing his pledges to carry out his part of the treaty. But great was the writer's surprise when he saw the Raja's *vakīl* come empty-handed and learnt that the *vakīl* was empowered only to negotiate but not to sign a treaty. The English reposed confidence in the Raja but he has not reciprocated it and in reply to the agreements referred to above has sent ordinary letters and verbal messages through his *vakīl.* Let the Raja put himself in the place of the English and say honestly if he would not feel slighted at receiving such an offhand reply to his solemn pledges. Would he attach so much importance to the verbal message delivered by a *vakīl* as to sign a treaty which would be binding not only upon himself but also upon his successors, without taking into consideration the fact that that *vakīl's* master may repudiate the whole proceeding? Moreover, would he sign the treaty with any regard for the safety of his honour and interests? In Europe the procedure regarding treaties is that soon after they have been signed and sealed by the two contracting parties, they are simultaneously exchanged between them. This is done through persons of good birth and high attainments. Has not heard of an instance in which a person of obscure origin in Europe may have been sent with a verbal message to a prince and procured a treaty from him on the strength of that message alone. With regard to their relations with the Raja, the English *sardārs* have done all that they possibly could. They sent him a copy of the treaty which they wanted to conclude with him and waited most patiently for a reply. It came at last but was very disappointing. They did not expect that he would accuse them of duplicity, time-serving and procrastination. These are very serious charges which he can never substantiate. Wants to know on what occasion or occasions they resorted to duplicity. Did they resort to duplicity when they marched three battalions of troops through Orissa without doing any one harm or when in the year 1180 A. H. they sent troops to Orissa to punish Sheo Bhaṭ who had revolted against him? At the time when the Raja was at war with Mādhū Rāo, the English *sardārs* were ready to help the Raja, but his letter arrived in the month of May and the rains commenced in June. In the circumstances it was impossible for them to go to his assistance. After a while news of his victory over Mādhū Rāo arrived which greatly rejoiced their anxious hearts. To have marched 500 *kōs* in order to go to his assistance at a time when most armies shut themselves up in cantonments, when there did not exist any agreement between him and the English and when they knew that by the time they arrived at the seat of war, it would be over, would certainly have been an unprecedented act of generosity. But the fact that ignoring all these considerations they have not risen to the height of such generosity does not show that they have been guilty of time-serving. Has expressed himself somewhat bitterly in this letter, but he hopes that the Raja will attribute it to his sincerity and candour. They have not quarrelled in the past and there is no reason why they should quarrel in future. Assures the Raja that he on his part will do his

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utmost to strengthen the foundation of friendship existing between them. By the blessing of God all affairs will be settled satisfactorily.

Cop. I., 1770, no 30, pp. 21-4. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 77, pp. 197-8. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 88.

May 9.* **204**. To the King. Has received His Majesty's letter saying that he has made up his mind to accept the invitation of Najibu'd-Daulah and the Mahrattas to proceed to the capital, and requesting the writer to send a powerful army to escort him thither. Has in his previous letter advised His Majesty not to trust the Mahrattas. Repeats the same advice once more, and warns His Majesty to postpone his departure for the capital till their real intentions are known. Their writing to His Majesty that if he does not proceed to the capital, they will take some other measure is an act of gross disloyalty and disobedience. The Nawab Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah agrees with the writer on this point. His Excellency is thinking of how to reduce the power of the Mahrattas; and as the fact of His Majesty's joining them will increase their prestige and pride, he is naturally averse to the proposal. Had they been true and faithful, the writer would have been the first to advise His Majesty to accept their invitation, but since he is convinced that they are insincere and want to make use of him, he would most strongly dissuade His Majesty from proceeding to the capital. For the rest, whatever may happen, the English *sardārs* are ready to perform the duties of loyalty.

Cop. I., 1770, no 32, pp. 24-5. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 78, pp. 198-9. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 77.

May 10. **205**. To Lakhmānjī Jāchak. About a year ago the Raja of Sambalpur gave a broken watch and a sum of Rs 100 to Mr Alleyn requesting him to get the watch repaired for him at Calcutta. It so happened that one Baḥāl Rāy who had gone to that part of the country to purchase diamonds for the Nawab Qamaru'd-Daulah [Mr Verelst] was at that time returning to Calcutta. Consequently Mr Alleyn entrusted the watch and the money to Baḥāl Rāy. The latter shortly after his arrival at Calcutta died, upon which a thorough search was made for the watch and the money, but these could not be traced. Nor has any vestige been found of his relations or of his effects. Has now been informed that the Raja of Sambalpur is for ever troubling Mr Alleyn about the watch and money for the loss of which that gentleman can in no way be held responsible. Requests the addressee to explain all these particulars to the Raja of Sambalpur and deliver Mr Alleyn from his importunities. Requests the addressee also to treat that gentleman kindly and to afford him every assistance.

Cop. I., 1770, no 27, pp. 19, 20.

May 10. **206**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Encloses a copy of an *'arẓī* which he has just received from Sayyid Muḥammad Khān, *Dārōghah* of Kalpi. It is evident that if the ships of foreign nations do not anchor at Kalpi, it would be impossible to search them. Desires the addressee to issue an urgent *parvānah* to the governors and directors of the foreign companies

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in Bengal to the effect that unless their ships anchor at Kalpi and submit to a search, a total stop will be put to their trade in all parts of the province. This will go a long way to make foreigners obey the orders of the Nizāmat.

Cop. I., 1770, no 29, pp. 20-1. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 79, p. 199 Abs. I., 1766-71, pp. 79, 80.

May 10. **207**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the Khān's letter inviting the writer to Murshidabad to attend the *Punyā*. Replies that he is unable to accept the invitation owing to the excessive heat. Moreover his presence at Murshidabad is not necessary as 'Izzatu'd-Daulah Mr Becher Bahādur Bahrām Jang is there to represent him at the ceremony. The Khān is also there. Is satisfied that whatever they do, will be calculated to benefit the *Sarkār*.

Cop. I., 1770, no 28, p. 20. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 80, p. 199. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 80.

May 13. **208**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has been informed that a quarrel has arisen between the mother of the late Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah and that of the present Nawab. Has written to Mr Becher fully on the subject. Desires the Khān in consultation with that gentleman to decide the dispute in an equitable manner and to inform the writer of the decision.

Cop. I., 1770, no 31, p. 24. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 81, pp. 199, 200. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 80.

May 15. **209**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. The state of affairs at Murshidabad has from time to time been explained to the Governor by Mr Becher. Up to the present hour the writer has managed the collection of the revenues and every other business of the *Nizāmat* most diligently, and as far as he could help it, he has not been guilty of any fault. But there is no remedy against the decrees of Providence. How can he describe the misery of the people from the severe droughts and the dearness of grain. Hitherto it was scarce, but this year it cannot be found at all. The tanks and springs are dried up and it is daily growing difficult to procure water. In addition to these calamities, dreadful fires have occurred throughout the country, impoverishing whole families and destroying thousands of lives. The small stores of grain which yet remained at Rajganj, Diwanganj and other places in the districts of Dinajpur and Purnea, have been consumed by fire. Hitherto each day furnished accounts of the death of thousands, but now *lākhs* of people are dying daily. It was hoped that there would be some rain during the months of April and May, and that the poor ryots would be enabled thereby to till their lands, but up to this hour not a drop of rain has fallen. The coarse crop which is gathered in this season is entirely ruined, and though the seed for the August crop is sown during the months of April and May, nothing has been done in that direction for want of rain Even now it is not too late and if there are a few showers of rain, something may be done. If the scarcity of grain and want of rain were confined to one part of the country, some remedy for the alleviation of distress could be found.

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But when the whole country is in the grip of famine, the only remedy lies in the mercy of God. The Almighty alone can deliver the people from such distress. The *Puniā* for the year 1177 [*Faṣlī*] will be held on the 3rd *Chait*. Requests the Governor to attend the festival in order that the *band-o-bast* for the new year may be settled in his presence. This would give satisfaction to everybody.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 90, pp. 47-8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 125.

May 15. **210**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has issued *parrānahs* to Muḥammad 'Askarī, *Dārōghah* of Culneah [Kalna ?], Kishn Chand, *Zamīndār* of Nadia, and Srī Kanth, *Zamīndār* of Jessore informing them that Tilōk Rām has been deprived of the monopoly of salt that was granted to him some time back. Says that he had granted the monopoly to Tilōk Rām in consequence of a false representation made by him to the effect that the *kalarīs* were unoccupied and the merchants discontented, and willing to give back their advances. Has, however, now discovered the imposture and will take proper measures to relieve the merchants.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 91, p. 48. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 125.

May 16. **211**. From the King. Authentic news has arrived to the effect that the imperious Mahratta *sardārs* have spread themselves over the *ṣūbah* of Akbarabad and made Mathura their headquarters. Buoyed up by high expectations, they are now preparing to march towards the frontiers of Kora. Although the help of the Almighty and the co-operation of his loyal servants are sufficient for the extirpation of all the enemies of the Empire, yet it is better to provide against all contingencies. Requests the Governor, therefore, to send ten battalions to His Majesty and to direct Colonel Galliez to accompany His Majesty to the frontiers of Kora. Has also written to the Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah to proceed with his army to Mahdighat. Refers the Governor to the Colonel for further particulars.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 92, p. 48. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 119.

May 17. **212**. To the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Has received the Nawab's letter inviting him to Murshidabad to attend the *Puniā*. Replies that although his desire to see His Excellency is very great, yet he is unable to leave Calcutta at present owing to the great heat.

Cop. I., 1770, no 33, pp. 25-6. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 82, p. 200. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 82.

May 18. **213**. From Sayyid Muḥammad Khān, *Dārōghah* of Kalpi. Is doing his best to discharge his duties, but owing to the great breadth of the river and the tempestuous weather at Kalpi, it is difficult to command the passage. Only two English vessels have as yet arrived. The commanders, immediately on receipt of the summons of the *chaukī*, stopped their ships. They informed the writer that they have received orders to anchor at Kalpi and submit to a search before they proceeded higher. But it does not appear that the French, Dutch or Danish commanders of ships have received any orders to that effect, for on the 27th *Zu'l-Ḥijjah* a two-masted French vessel passed the *chaukī* without

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hearkening to the summons; and as the wind was high and the water rough, it was impossible to overtake her with a *pansway*. Requests that orders may be issued directing the French, Dutch and Danes to conform to the regulations and bring their vessels to anchor at the *chaukī*. Thinks that it would be better to station a sloop or a ship instead of the *pansway* at the *chaukī*. Has written these particulars also to Muḥammad Riẓā Khān.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 93, pp. 48-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 148.

May 18. **214.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. A few days before the arrival of the Governor's letter, the writer received a representation on the subject of foreign ships, in response to which he issued peremptory orders to the effect that unless the commanders of foreign ships cast anchor at Kalpi, a total stop would be put to the trade of their countries. Has now issued fresh instructions to that effect in pursuance of the Governor's orders, and will direct the *Faujdār* of Hooghly to prevent the cargo of such ships as pass Kalpi without stopping, from being landed. Agrees with the Governor that if the orders of the Government are not strictly enforced, foreigners will regard them as waste paper; but that when they see that the Government means business and carries out its threats, they will readily submit.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 94, p. 49. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 125.

May 18. **215.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Is sorry to learn that the Governor is unable to attend the *Puniā*. Will however transact the necessary business in conjunction with Mr Becher.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 95, p. 49. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 125.

May 19. **216.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy. News has just arrived that Takōjī Hulkar with his whole army and baggage crossed the Jumna and encamped at a distance of 3 *kōs* from the *ghāṭ* of Bindraban. Two days later Rām Chandar Ganēsh also crossed the river and encamped close to Takōjī, but Mādhōjī Sindhia remains on 'this' side of the river. It would seem that the Mahrattas intend to subjugate the country between the two rivers, which formerly belonged to the Jāṭs. Will inform the Governor whenever fresh news is received.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 96, pp. 49-50. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 136.

May 19. **217.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has already written to the Khān regarding the refractory conduct of Srī Kanth, *Zamīndār* of Raymangal who, notwithstanding that a *parvānah* was sent to him, has not yet delivered salt to the merchants nor returned them their money. Desires the Khān to issue peremptory orders warning him that in the event of his failure to comply with the *parvānah*, he will be severely punished.

Cop. I., 1770, no 34, p. 26. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 83, p. 200. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 80.

May 19. **218.** To Srī Kanth, *Zamīndār* of Raymangal. Warns him that in the event of his persisting in his present behaviour towards the merchants of Calcutta, he will be deprived of his *zamīndārī* and receive

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such further punishment as will be remembered not only by himself but by his children and his children's children.

Cop. I., 1770, no 35, pp. 26-7. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 84, p. 200. Abs. I., 1766-71 p. 93.

May 19. **219**. To Kishn Chand, Raja of Nadia. Has already sent several *parvānahs* requiring him to release the boats carrying salt that have been detained in his *zamīndārī*. Complains that he has not yet replied to the *parvānahs*, to say nothing of releasing the boats. It appears that he is not in his senses and has completely forgotten himself. Writes to him to say that if he has any regard for his welfare and happiness, he should immediately on receipt of this *parvānah* order his *chaukīs* to release the boats.

Cop. I., 1770, no 36, p. 27. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 85, p. 200. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 87.

May 19. **220**. To Muḥammad Riẓā K͟hān. Acknowledges the receipt, through Rāy Kāshī Nāth, of 2 maunds of ice sent by the K͟hān on board a *chaupāla*. Offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770, no 37, p. 27.

May 20. **221**. To the King. His Majesty has for some time been addressing his *shuqqahs* to the Council. This is contrary to the established custom which requires His Majesty to correspond with the Governor alone. Since the writer is the Governor now, he requests that he alone may be honoured with His Majesty's *shuqqahs*.

Cop. I., 1770, no 38, pp. 27-8. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 86, p. 200. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 77.

May 22. **222**. From the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Has been informed that His Majesty is willing to grant him a *sanad* of confirmation, but that he demands three *lākhs* of rupees as a *pēshkash* for the same. As he is in straitened circumstances at present, he has procured from the Sēṭhs a bill for one *lākh* of rupees. Will pay the remaining two *lākhs* by degrees. Requests the Governor to address His Majesty on the subject assuring him that the balance will be sent shortly. Looks upon the Governor as his protector and hopes that His Excellency will do what is best for him.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 97, p. 50. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 129.

May 22. **223**. From Muḥammad Riẓā K͟hān. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 98, p. 50. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 125.

May 22. **224**. From Muḥammad Riẓā K͟hān. With respect to the Governor's inquiry concerning the *bēgams*, the K͟hān says as follows. The most honoured of all Mīr Ja'far's *bēgams* from the point of view of both family connection and manners was the mother of Ṣādiq 'Alī K͟hān. After the death of the latter as Najmu'd-Daulah became the heir to the *Niẓāmat*, his mother rose to pre-eminence among the *bēgams*. This distinction she continued to enjoy during the time of both Najmu'd-Daulah and Saifu'd-Daulah, as she was the mother of the latter also. Now that Mubāraku'd-Daulah is the *Nāẓim*, the place of honour

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rightfully belongs to his mother, but it would be better if the two *bēgams* were given equal rank and authority. As for the rest, the K͟hān is ready to carry out, in conjunction with Mr Becher, whatever orders the Governor issues on the subject.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 99, pp. 50-1. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 125.

May 22. **225**. From Najaf K͟hān. Has written several letters about his distressed situation to the Governor. It is now a month and a half since the writer by the advice of Colonel Galliez came to the Presence with his troops; but His Majesty, influenced as he is by the writer's enemies, has entirely neglected him and has not fulfilled one of the promises he made to the Colonel concerning the writer. All the representations which the Colonel has made on behalf of the writer have proved ineffectual, and his situation is growing daily worse. The Governor will be informed of the particulars by the Colonel. The writer's enemies have omitted nothing to render his downfall complete, and never lose sight of their chief object, namely, his degradation. They have contrived to get the settlement of his case postponed on the most trifling grounds. They also instigated his soldiers to desert him. But they being his tried and faithful adherents, remained firm in their duty. However on account of the delay that has occurred in the settlement of their *tank͟hwāh* and other matters, they are in great distress. Hitherto the writer relying on the Governor's and Colonel Galliez's assurances of protection, has lived in hopes of being reinstated; but now he is convinced that he can only expect malice from his enemies and disgrace from His Majesty. Wishes to repair to Bengal with his troops in the hope that one day he may be able to show his fidelity to the Company. It is known to all that the Company took him by the hand and appointed him to the office which he up till recently held. Now that he has been dismissed from that office for no fault of his, and his enemies, encouraged by His Majesty, are bent upon his destruction, he hopes that the generous English *sardārs* will grant him protection. Is awaiting impatiently the Governor's commands.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 100, p. 51. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 131.

May 24. **226**. To Muḥammad Riẓā K͟hān. Has received the K͟hān's letter suggesting that the mothers of Najmu'd-Daulah and Mubāraku'd-Daulah may be given equal rank and authority. Opines that this arrangement instead of ending the dispute existing between the two *bēgams* will perpetuate it, for God has not endowed women with prudence and they are naturally quarrelsome. Proposes that since Mubāraku'd-Daulah is the *Nāẓim* now, the real authority should be vested in his mother, but that, as a matter of form and etiquette, she should treat the mother of the late Nawab Najmu'd-Daulah as her superior.

Cop. I., 1770, no 39, pp. 28-9.

May 25.* **227**. To the King. The fact of His Majesty's granting pardon to Munīru'd-Daulah has given the English *sardārs* great satisfaction. They have one more request to make. It is that His Majesty may extend

* June 21 according to the volume of copies.

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his pardon to Najaf Khān also. This further act of clemency on the part of His Majesty will complete their happiness. Although the Khān has many merits, yet he relies chiefly on His Majesty's favour and kindness. Let not His Majesty think for a moment that the English *sardārs* are trying to influence him in the matter. It lies with His Majesty alone to exalt or to degrade a servant, but they cannot refrain from saying that in times of difficulty he will sacrifice his life and property for the house of Tīmūr. When the Khān was at Kora, his enemies said that he would never come to Allahabad in obedience to His Majesty's commands. But his enemies have proved totally wrong, for he has come to Allahabad with all his retainers, and is ready to undertake any task that His Majesty may entrust to him. Over and above his attachment to His Majesty, there is another reason why he should be pardoned and reinstated in the *faujdārī* of Kora. It is that the Mahrattas are encamping close to the frontier of His Majesty's country, and that, should they be so presumptuous as to invade it, there is no one among His Majesty's servants so capable of opposing them as Najaf Khān. In short the restoration of the latter to his former office will not only give satisfaction to the English *sardārs*, but will also be of great advantage to His Majesty himself.

Cop. I., 1770, no 48, pp. 35-6. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 87, pp. 200-1. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 77.

May 25.* **228**. To Sambhājī Ganēsh, *Ṣūbahdār* of Cuttack. Has been informed that the *Zamīndār* of Shahbandar which adjoins the *parganah* of Lambajur [Laichanpur ?] belonging to the Company, claims an unprecedented duty on grain produced in the *parganah* but occasionally kept within the boundary of Shahbandar. Has also been informed that he sends *pāiks* and *piādahs* to Lambajur forcibly to collect the duty. Remarks that the duty is illegal since the grain is not imported into Shahbandar but is only kept within its boundary for convenience's sake. Requests that the *Zamīndār* may be forced to return the amount of money he has collected and prohibited from demanding the duty in future. The matter is very trifling and can be easily settled by the addressee's reprimanding the *Zamīndār*. Hopes that the addressee will comply with the writer's wishes, otherwise the consequences will be rather unpleasant.

Cop. I., 1770, no 55, pp. 41-2. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 88, pp. 201-2. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 92.

May 25. **229**. To the King. Sends on behalf of the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah a bill for one *lākh* of rupees out of the three *lākhs* which His Excellency agreed to pay His Majesty as a *pēshkash*. The balance will be sent later.

Cop. I., 1770, no 40, p. 29.

May 26. **230**. To Muhammad Riẓā Khān. Has received, through Rāy Kāshī Nāth, four baskets of pomegranates, two of the baskets containing granulated pomegranates and the other two seedless ones. Offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770, no 41, pp. 29-30.

* June 21 according to the volume of copies.

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May 26. **231.** To [Babbû Bēgam] mother of the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Has received her letter. Congratulates her on the installation of the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah on the *masnad* of the *Niẓāmat*. The writer did not know that she was in straitened circumstances but believed that like the mothers of former *Nāẓims* she was in the enjoyment of every comfort. However he has now written to Mr Becher and Muḥammad Riẓā Khān to vest her with the supreme control of the Nawab's household and to show her due respect.

Cop. I., 1770, no 42, p. 30.

May 30. **232.** From the King. Has received the Governor's letter. Pays him compliments and says that he greatly admires the English, particularly for their qualities of loyalty and wisdom. A combination of these qualities makes the English *sardārs* the most useful advisers to His Majesty. Seeing that His Majesty has entrusted himself wholly to their care it is in some measure incumbent upon them to give him advice and practical help. Knows full well that the Governor when giving advice to His Majesty always keeps in view the welfare of himself, the prosperity of his subjects and the stability of the Empire. Has, therefore, given up the idea of sending Najaf Khān to the capital in accordance with the Governor's advice which, after full consideration, seems to His Majesty to be most prudent and sound. Compliments the Governor once more on the soundness of his judgment and the disinterestedness of his motives. As to the Mahrattas, on this subject also His Majesty agrees with the Governor. The thought of uniting with the Mahrattas for the extirpation of the *sardārs* of Hindustan never entered His Majesty's mind, for the words of that race have never coincided with their deeds and never will. Although such is His Majesty's opinion of them, yet he considered it advisable to beguile them with a show of friendship until such time as their designs became known or until His Majesty received advice from the Governor on the subject. 'But look at the *sardārs* of Hindustan'. Of what value is their friendship? It is like that of the Mahrattas and needs no comment. All the misfortunes that have befallen the Empire, are due to the *sardārs* of Hindustan. Had they seriously united and made loyalty and devotion to the throne the means of their advancement, the Empire would not have been reduced to its present deplorable condition. Howmuchsoever His Majesty may favour the *sardārs* of Hindustan and desire the extirpation of the Mahrattas, his affairs cannot be straightened until an Englishman of rank resides in the Presence and performs the duties of allegiance. Asks the Governor to devise such a plan for reviving the glory of the Empire as may be most successful and redound to His Excellency's glory and reputation. Has thought it advisable to depute Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān to the Mahratta *sardārs* with a view to checkmating the designs of Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān, the traitor, the pest of mankind, the rejected of heaven and earth, who is at present with the Mahrattas meditating some new devilry. If the Mahratta *sardārs* cannot be induced to follow the right path, at least this advantage will be gained from Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān's going to them that the schemes

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of Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān will be delayed and the English troops enabled to arrive at Allahabad.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 101, pp. 51-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 119.

*June 2.** **233.** From the King. Thanks the Governor for stationing two battalions at Buxar to be ready in case of need, and says that he will always base his conduct on the advice of the English *sardārs*. Has already informed the Governor of the depredations committed by the Mahrattas and of the arrival of Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān in their camp. Has also written to the Governor that if His Majesty advances to Delhi, he will require two battalions over and above those already appointed to accompany him. It appears now that the power of the treacherous Mahrattas is beyond all imagination. Consequently unless the Governor sends His Majesty a prominent English *sardār* with a large army, they will not be intimidated. Cannot sufficiently impress upon the Governor the urgency of this measure. Has also directed the Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah to hold himself in readiness. If the Governor complies with His Majesty's wishes, the Nawab will follow suit. It is His Majesty's firm belief that in the qualities of uprightness and loyalty the English *sardārs* have no parallel in the annals of history.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 102, p. 53. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 119.

June 2. **234.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Notwithstanding that a severe famine prevails in the province, the writer has by his exertions collected as much of the revenue for the year 1176 [*Faṣlī*] as possible. It is impossible to collect the balance without ruining the cultivators and causing a heavy loss of the revenue in the ensuing year. The particulars of the balance will be communicated to the Governor by Mr Becher. The *band-o-bast* for the year 1177 [*Faṣlī*] should be settled at this time. But when the writer speaks to the *zamīndārs* and farmers about the terms of the *band-o-bast*, they straightway reply 'We have no power or footing in the districts. How can we discuss the terms?' Each *zamīndār* has delivered a separate representation on the subject to Mr Becher, who will forward a translation of it to the Governor. The farmers also from their mistaken notions assert that if the *zamīndārs* are deprived of their customary privileges, nothing will be left to them (the farmers). They have accordingly declined to offer terms and even refuse to come to Murshidabad. Only two or three persons have expressed their willingness to discuss terms with the Government, but then they were the writer's dependants and have been long attached to him. Anyway two or three persons are not enough to farm the whole *ṣūbah*. Asks the Governor to give the subject his careful thought and to devise some plan for the due settlement of the revenues and the future currency of the public business, so that the writer who has devoted his whole life to the service of the Company and has by the Governor's favour hitherto preserved an irreproachable name, may not now suffer in reputation. Refers the Governor to Mr Becher for particulars.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 103, p. 54. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 125.

*June 8 according to the volume of translations.

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June 3. **235.** From Kishn Chand, Raja of Nadia. Assures the Governor that immediately on receipt of His Excellency's *parvānah,* he sent a reply. It appears to have miscarried. Has, however, issued fresh orders to his *chaukīdārs* to regard the Collector's *dastak* as sufficient. Requests the Governor in future to address letters to Mr Rider also, as the management of affairs in the *mufaṣṣal* now rests with that gentleman.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 104, p. 55. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 140.

June 3. **236.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. As regards the pretensions of Muḥammad Yār Khān, the writer is not fully acquainted with them. All that he knows is this. The Khān was formerly in the service of General Barker. The latter commended him to Lord Clive when His Lordship was at Patna, and by His Lordship's orders there was settled upon him a pension of Rs 18,000 per *annum* to be provided for from the exclusive collections and not from the ordinary revenues of the province. In pursuance of those orders Muḥammad Riẓā Khān decided that the pension should be charged to the *parganah* of Arrah. The statement regarding this pension and bearing Muḥammad Riẓā Khān's signature is now deposited in the public office at Patna. The pension was granted to Muḥammad Yār Khān in the year 1174 [*Faṣlī*]. From that year to the year 1176 he received the full amount of his pension regularly. In the beginning of the year 1177 he received Rs 1,000 on account. Since then nothing has been paid to him, the reason being that when Mr Alexander inspected the accounts of the province on the last occasion, he directed the payment to be withheld until the decision of the Committee could be known.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 105, p. 55. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 136.

June 3. **237.** From the Nawab Iḥtirāmu'd-Daulah. Requests the Governor's permission to visit Calcutta.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 106, p. 56. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 113.

June 3. **238.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Informs the Governor the death of Raja Dūlab Rām.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 107, p. 56. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 125.

June 5. **239.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Promises to punish the *Zamīndār* of Jessore for disobeying the Governor's orders.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 108, p. 56. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 126.

June 5. **240.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Intimates the death of his father Tilōk Chand, and says that the latter on his death-bed appointed the writer his sole successor. Solicits the extension of the Company's protection to him.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 109, p. 56. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 142.

June 6. **241.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Encloses a Royal *shuqqah* in which His Majesty complains of the dilatoriness of the Governor in paying the Bengal tribute, and desires that the arrears due up to the month of *Muḥarram* may be paid up immediately.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 110, p. 56. Abs R., 1767-71, p 136.

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June 6. **242.** From Sayyid Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Kalpi. Intimates the arrival at Kalpi of the *Amazon* under Captain Gordon, and requests that all ships may be ordered to anchor at Kalpi. Unless they do so, it would be impossible to search them properly.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 111, p. 56. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 148.

June 6. **243.** From Sayyid Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Kalpi. Intimates the arrival at Kalpi of the *Four Friends* under Captain Thornhill, and says that the latter allowed his ship to be searched according to the regulations.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 112, p. 56. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 148.

June 7. **244.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Intimates that Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān has arrived in the Mahratta camp. It is rumoured that Mīr Qāsim will also join the Mahrattas.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 113, p. 56. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 136.

June 7. **245.** To Munnī Bēgam. In the time of the Nawab Najmu'd-Daulah and the Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah she was mistress of their households, while the mother of the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah lived in retirement. Now that Mubāraku'd-Daulah occupies the *masnad* of the *Niẓāmat*, it would be better for the addressee to leave the control of his household to his mother. She will do the addressee great credit as well as please the English *sardārs*.

Cop. I., 1770, no 43, pp. 30-1.

June 8. **246.** From Raja Rājballabh. Solicits the favour of being appointed to the offices of his late father and the extension of the Company's protection to himself.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 114, p. 56. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 143.

June 9. **247.** From Ḥusāmu'd-Dīn Khān. Although the writer has hitherto neglected to correspond with the Governor, yet in his heart he is sincerely attached to His Excellency. The fidelity with which the writer has, from the very first, served the Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah must have been known to the Governor. His Excellency's several *'arẓīs* interceding for the Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah were duly laid before His Majesty, and the writer did his best to support them. His Majesty has at last given in and recalled the Nawab to the Presence. His Majesty has also written to the Governor to send the Nawab to Allahabad with all expedition.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 115, p. 57. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 117.

June 9. **248.** From the King. As the Governor has written so many letters in favour of Munīru'd-Daulah and as Shujā'u'd-Daulah also has interceded for him, His Majesty being loath to disappoint those worthy servants of the throne, has commanded Munīru'd Daulah to return to the Court. Although His Majesty greatly loved that faithful servant and has still great affection for him, yet His Majesty could not help being displeased with him for leaving the Court without permission. However, he has now forgiven him. Can never forget

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the services which he has rendered to His Majesty. Desires the Governor to send him to Allahabad with the utmost speed and to assure him of His Majesty's protection.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 116, pp. 57-8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 119.

June 9. **249.** From the Vazīr. Has understood what the Governor writes concerning the permanent nature of the friendship existing between the writer and the English. It goes without saying that the writer is heartily devoted to the English *sardārs* and that it has always been his aim to get on more friendly terms with them. It was with this object that he gave the Governor fresh pledges of friendship and faithfulness. Though he knows that the English *sardārs* are unequalled in integrity and are too wise to listen to the words of thoughtless people, nevertheless he was anxious to have the old treaty renewed. As to the Governor's writing that His Excellency is ready to give him fresh pledges of friendship, says that as he sincerely believes the English to be as true as himself, he does not require new pledges from His Excellency. All he wants is to retain the goodwill of the English *sardārs*. Thanks God that the friendship between himself and the English has been strengthened by the renewal of the old treaty, and hopes that this friendship will daily increase to the prosperity of the people of God and the accomplishment of great purposes. Requests the Governor to continue to correspond with him.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 117, p. 58. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 146.

June 12. **250.** From the Vazīr. Has received the Governor's letter and understood the contents. It is well known that the *sardārs* of Hindustan have no sense of the danger of the [Mahratta invasion?] and never think of the future. Before these disturbances broke out, the writer sounded all the *sardārs* of Hindustan separately, but he found not one amongst them who had a proper idea of the danger ahead. Now that the expected has happened, every one is consulting his own interests. On one side Najību'd-Daulah has entered into a league with the Mahrattas ; on the other, the Mahrattas are attempting to possess themselves of Etawa and the other dependencies of Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān. Cannot conceive how such a league was brought into existence. The truth is that there is no one left in Hindustan to stop the career of the Mahrattas. For his own part, the writer is ready to defend the dominions of His Majesty and those of himself. Some time back he intended to advance to the frontier of Kora, but postponed the carrying out of that idea until he ascertained the Governor's views. Now that he has heard from the Governor on the subject, he will, on his return from Lucknow where he is going on a hunting expedition, himself advance to the frontier of Kora or send a large number thither. In case of necessity he will proceed to the frontier straight from Lucknow. Is more anxious for the preservation of the Royal dominions than that of his own, and is confident that the English will show the same and even greater solicitude for the defence of the writer's country. Feels therefore perfectly secure. If a considerable English force accompanies His Majesty to the capital, the writer will also join the expedition, if not, he will stay where he is, for what can

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he do alone? Formerly he was master of his own affairs and did what he pleased; but now that he has entered into an alliance with the English, he cannot do anything without their co-operation. Nor can His Majesty undertake anything without the Governor's consent. If it is His Excellency's opinion that the Mahrattas should be driven from Hindustan, he should appoint a large army under the command of an officer of distinction to attend the Royal stirrup. Anyway, the writer will not do anything without first consulting the Governor. Hopes that at Lucknow Captain Harper will explain to the writer His Excellency's views more fully. Will then intimate his own views to the Captain for communication to the Governor.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 118, pp. 59, 60. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 146.

June 12. **251.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. In accordance with Mr Becher's directions, the writer has employed every means to quiet the fears of the *'āmils, zamīndārs* and farmers and settled the *band-o-bast* for the year 1177 [*Faṣlī*]. At first the *zamīndārs* and *'āmils* raised objections to the appointment of supervisors, saying: 'Our authority in the country will be annulled; and then how shall we be able to enter into engagements with the Government? We can do so only on condition that the supervisors are withdrawn.' The writer endeavoured to soothe their minds and assured them that the supervisors would not interfere in matters of revenue, and bade them (the *zamīndārs* and *'āmils*) repair to the districts free from anxiety, carry on their business, promote cultivation and remit their *qisṭs*; and that if any of the supervisors interfered in their business, strict measures will be taken by the Government. But not satisfied with these assurances, they have each submitted a written proposal and require Mr Becher and the writer to sign it. The substance of their proposal is that in the event of the supervisors interfering in matters of revenue they (the *zamīndārs* and *'āmils*) should not be held responsible for balances. Encloses a copy of their proposal and a draft of the pledge which they require Mr Becher and the writer to sign. As the situation is unprecedented, the writer is afraid to act on his own responsibility, and requests the Governor to send him instructions on the subject.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 119, pp. 60-1. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 126.

June 12. **252.** Draft of the proposal submitted by the *zamīndārs* and *'āmils*. 'Your servant in compliance with your orders accepts the terms of the *band-o-bast* of the *parganah* ———— for the year 1177 on condition that he shall possess full authority in revenue matters and in all other matters appertaining thereto. He will not be remiss in the performance of his duty, in the improvement of the lands or in the collection and remittance of the stipulated sums. Should a supervisor or any other person interfere in those matters or molest the *gumāshtahs* of the *'āmils*, your servant will duly report the matter to the Presence in the hope that his grievances will promptly be redressed. But if this is not done, he will not be answerable for the revenues.'

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 119 A, pp. 61-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 126.

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June 12. **253.** Draft of the pledge which the *zamīndārs* required Mr Becher and Muḥammad Riẓā Khān to sign. 'Apply yourself with confidence and contentment to the business of collecting the revenues. Should a supervisor or any other person interfere with you, prompt measures will be taken to redress your grievances. But if this is not done, you will not be held responsible for the balances.'

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 120, p. 62. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 126.

June 15. **254.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Has been informed by Mr Graham that the writer has been confirmed in the *zamīndārī* of his father. Offers thanks and sends a *nazr* of 5 mohurs and 9 rupees.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 121, p. 62. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 142.

June 15. **255.** From Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. Intimates that the Mahrattas have made incursions into the districts of Aḥmad Khān [Bangash] and that the *vakīl* of Shujā'u'd-Daulah is with the Mahratta army. Intimates also that the writer has sent one *lākh* of rupees to Colonel Galliez at the latter's request. Has for some time suffered in health but is now in a fair way to recovery.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 122, p. 62. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 141.

June 15. **256.** From Babbū Bēgam. Intimates that Muḥammad Riẓā Khān and Mr Becher visited her in the *qal'ah* and in pursuance of the Governor's orders, put her in charge of the household. Cannot adequately thank the Governor for his favour and requests that it may be continued to be shown to her.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 123, pp. 62-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 113.

June 16.* **257.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. The Khān's account of the opposition which the English *amīns* have met at the hands of the *'āmils* does not surprise the writer in the least. It is quite natural that the *'āmils* who hitherto were free to do what they liked should chafe under the restraint under which they have now been placed. Their aim at present seems to be to force the Government to acquiesce in a return to the old order of things, quite ignorant of the fact that the Government is firm in its resolve to carry out the scheme at all costs. It was to put a stop to the evil practices of *'āmils* that the English *amīns* were appointed. Now if they are withdrawn and no one remains to control the conduct of the *'āmils*, they will grow more corrupt and the country be brought to ruin. The Government could not stand by as a silent spectator, without incurring grave discredit. It cannot be said that the scheme has been precipitated. More than nine months have elapsed since it was first made public. It was not enforced in the middle of the year in order that the collection of the revenue might not be interrupted and in order that people might be convinced that the object of the English *sardārs* was not to increase the revenue but to promote the welfare of the ryots. But before the scheme was put into execution, the *'āmils* raised a strong agitation against it and said that if the English *amīns* were appointed to supervise their conduct, they would not be answerable for the revenue. What they really wanted to say was this : 'If you tie our hands and stop our corrupt practices, it

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will not be worth our while to serve you. We are already quite rich. We are used to taking illegal gratifications and can never be contented with the ordinary emoluments of our offices.' As the Khān has an unrivalled knowledge of the manners and habits of the people of this country, the writer hopes that he will use his best endeavour to expose the villainies of this wicked set. To tolerate them would be to lend them the sanction of the Government. Let it not be said that during the writer's Government and the Khān's ministry, the welfare of mankind and the existence of the Company were sacrificed to the interests of a few interested blackguards. The Khān has in the past rendered valuable services to the Company. The English *sardārs* are fully aware of it and will always have his interests at heart. But now a yet greater service is required of him. It is to co-operate with the English *sardārs* in making the above scheme a success. If he acquits himself well in this task, he will have his reputation increased tenfold; but if, which God forbid, he disappoints the English *sardārs* in this affair, the writer is afraid that the Khān will lose the reputation he has already gained. Being a sincere friend of the Khān's, the writer has preferred to be open and above-board with him.

Cop. I., 1770, no 45, pp. 31-4. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 89, pp. 202-3. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 80.

June 16.* **258**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Expresses sorrow at the death of Raja Dūlab Rām.

Cop. I., 1770, no 46, p. 34. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 90, p. 203. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 80.

June 16.* **259**. To Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Condoles with him on the death of his father, and informs him that in view of the fact that his family has been loyal and faithful to the Company so long, he has been confirmed in the *zamīndārī*, honours etc. of his late father. Will some time later send a *khal'at* which will be delivered to him by Mr John Graham. As the writer is about to write to His Majesty for a *sanad* confirming the addressee in his father's titles, it is necessary that he should also write an *'arẓī* to His Majesty to that effect and send it to the writer. Will dispatch it with his own *'arẓī* to His Majesty.

Cop. I., 1770, no 47, pp. 34-5. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 91, p. 203. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 93.

June 18.† **260**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received his letter enclosing a *shuqqah* on the subject of the Bengal tribute. Has already informed His Majesty that owing to the famine prevailing in the province, unusual delay will this year occur in the payment of the instalments. It is unnecessary therefore to write to His Majesty once more to the same effect.

Cop. I., 1770, no 53, p. 40. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 92, p. 204. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 85.

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† June 21 according to the volume of copies.

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June 18.* **261**. To Sayyid Muḥammad Khān. Has transmitted full and clear instructions to Muḥammad Riẓā Khān on the subject of the *chaukī* at Kalpi. Consequently if the addressee has any trouble with the French in future, he should write to Muḥammad Riẓā Khān who, in accordance with those instructions, will take proper measures against the French.

Cop. I., 1770, no 56, p. 42. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 93, p. 204. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 93.

June 18.* **262**. To Raja Rājballabh. Is greatly concerned to learn of the death of his father Mahārājā Mahindar. As the latter was a faithful servant of the Company, the English *sardārs* will help and protect not only the addressee but all the members of the bereaved family. As to the addressee's application for the office of his father, replies that as he already holds a post in the *Khālisah Kachehrī*, his application cannot be granted. Moreover it is not the intention of the English *sardārs* to appoint any one to the office held by Mahārājā Mahindar.

Cop. I., 1770, no 50, p. 39. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 94, p. 204. Abs. I., 1767-71, p 88.

June 18.* **263**. To the Vazīr. Has received his two letters, one containing professions of friendship, and the other observations on the state of things in Hindustan. He is quite right in denouncing the *sardārs* of this country and in holding aloof from them. It is due to their indolence, imprudence and wickedness that the country is in a state of ruin and is falling an easy prey to every invader. Common danger may unite them, but it does so only for a time, for self-interest soon blinds them to the danger and they cease to work for the general good. If they see that they can gain an advantage easily and in a little time, they will pursue that advantage—no matter how trivial and temporary it may be—in preference to solid and permanent benefits that can only be obtained through patience and labour. Najību'd-Daulah is the victim of a similar delusion. When he entered into an alliance with the Mahrattas, he believed that it would go to increase his power and that they would assist him in the successful execution of grand projects. But how cruelly has he been undeceived. The Mahrattas no longer pay attention to his counsels: and while they are ravaging the country of his kinsman Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān and destroying the foundations of the power of the Rohillas, he, as their ally, is obliged to remain a silent spectator of the tragedy. It would take years for the country to recover from the depredations of the Mahrattas. Had he formed an alliance with the Jāṭs, how easy it would have been for him to defeat the Mahrattas. It is a pity that when the Rajputs were being destroyed by the Mahrattas, the Jāṭs looked calmly on; and that when the Jāṭs met with a similar fate, the Rohillas watched their downfall with perfect composure. Asks pardon for observing that the addressee has acted in some measure in a similar way to the above-named peoples. It appears that he has not given sufficient thought to the dangers to which the Rohillas are exposed. He should remember that they are his neighbours, and that if (which God forbid!) the Mahrattas succeed in conquering them, his country will be open to their attacks, the collec-

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tion of his revenues will be impeded and he himself live in a permanent state of alarm; whereas if the Rohillas are strong and independent, he may continue to enjoy peace and prosperity for years. Advises him therefore to determine to oppose the Mahrattas. For this purpose it is necessary that he should forget all his old differences with the Rohillas and enter into a firm and sincere alliance with them.

Cop. I., 1770, no 49, pp. 36-9. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 95, pp. 204-6. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 90.

June 20. **264.** From Muḥammad Riẓā K͟hān. Intimates that Babbū Bēgam has been placed in charge of the *Niẓāmat* household.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 124, p. 63. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 126.

June 20. **265.** From the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Expresses satisfaction at the fact that his mother has been given charge of the *Niẓāmat* household.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 125, p. 63. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 129.

June 20. **266.** From Mirzā Kāẓim, *Ex-Faujdār* of Hooghly. After the writer's arrival at Murshidabad, Mr Becher saw him only once and then delivered him over to Muḥammad Riẓā K͟hān. The latter and Mr Becher discussed the writer's business on two occasions at Motijhil. The writer represented that his accounts were examined two years ago by Mr Sykes and Mr Verelst; that it was then decided that the writer should pay the sum of Rs. 1,35,000 into the treasury; that he accordingly paid that sum, and that therefore he did not owe a single *dām* to the Company. Upon this Mr Becher said that he would first see the accounts and then give his decision. Shortly after this Muḥammad Riẓā K͟hān ordered the writer to keep to his house and prohibited him from seeing Mr Becher. For the space of two months nothing further was done towards settling the writer's business and he supposes that Mr Becher forgot all about it. In the meantime the writer attended Muḥammad Riẓā K͟hān whenever the latter sent for him. At last Muḥammad Riẓā K͟hān told Mr Becher that the writer refused to submit his accounts. Upon this that gentleman sent twenty *harkārahs* and *chōbdārs* who carried him to the *K͟hāliṣah Kachehrī* where he is now confined. Has sent an *'arẓī* to Mr Becher stating that the writer was sent to him by the Governor, and requesting him to examine his accounts and in the event of his being found guilty, to keep the writer in his own custody. But up till now the writer has not received any reply. Complains that he is being treated like an ordinary criminal. Protests that he is quite innocent and that Muḥammad Riẓā K͟hān is prosecuting him from pure malice; and requests that proper inquiry may be made into his case.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 126, pp. 63-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 129.

June 20. **267.** From the King. Has received the Governor's two *'arẓīs* promising to assist His Majesty in case of need. Eulogises His Excellency's loyalty and says that although owing to the commencement of the rains, neither the Mahrattas nor any other power can move at this season, yet considering the probability of their making a sudden

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incursion into His Majesty's dominions after the rains, it would be better if two or three more battalions were stationed at Allahabad. As desired by the Governor, His Majesty will not in future address letters to the Council. One reason for his having done so is that when Munīru'd-Daulah, General Smith and General Barker were at Allahabad, His Majesty corresponded with the gentlemen of the Council without the then Governor taking exception to the procedure.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 127, p. 64. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 119.

June 20. **268.** From the King. Encloses copies of an *'arzī* which the Nawab Amīru'l-Umarā Najību'd-Daulah has addressed to His Majesty's mother and of a *shuqqah* from her to His Majesty himself urging him immediately to march towards the capital to regulate the affairs of the Empire. Encloses also a copy of a letter His Majesty has written to Najību'd-Daulah on the above subject. Some time ago the Governor promised to appoint the two battalions that are stationed at Allahabad to accompany His Majesty to the capital, and in case of necessity to provide two more battalions for that purpose. Requests that Colonel Galliez may be directed to detach the four battalions whenever His Majesty commences his march towards the capital. Should the Governor consent to send four battalions more to accompany the Royal standards, it will greatly please His Majesty, and be a convincing proof of the Governor's loyalty and attachment. Requests that the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah also may be asked to join the expedition.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 128, pp. 64-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 119-20.

June 20. **269.** Najību'd-Daulah to the Queen-mother. Some time ago the writer, in obedience to Her Majesty's commands, wrote to the King to advance to Delhi. His Majesty promised to come but has not yet done so. The writer more than once thought of deputing his brother or son to Allahabad to conduct His Majesty hither, but when he reflected on the want of principles among the *sardārs* of Hindustan and on the fact that should His Majesty not think the writer worthy of his confidence, he will greatly suffer in reputation, he gave up that idea. Has now arrived in the Mahratta camp, seen the Mahratta *sardārs,* sounded their views and entered into an alliance with them. They are ready to serve His Majesty and assist him in the accomplishment of his plan. It is desirable that His Majesty should come to a decision and march towards the capital without delay, otherwise they will listen to the suggestions of enemies and seek the support of some other person. As the writer longs to see the Royal affairs prosper—it is to his interest that they should flourish, he humbly advises Her Majesty to write to the King informing him of the state of affairs and asking him to say plainly whether he will come or not. If His Majesty advances now towards the capital, a *lākh* of the Mahratta horse will be at his service and the affairs of the Empire be easily regulated. Should His Majesty consent to come, the writer will repair to Allahabad himself or send his brother or son to escort him hither. Requests Her Majesty once more to obtain speedily a plain answer from His Majesty, otherwise the

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consequences will be very serious. She knows who her enemy is. Has warned her. Let no blame fall upon the writer for what may happen.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 129, pp. 65-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 132.

June 20. **270**. The Queen-mother to the King. Has received his letter saying that he would on no account choose to separate himself from his people while war is raging in every quarter, for fear he should lose his life. Understands what he says. Encloses a copy of an *'arzī* which Najību'd-Daulah has written to her. It is necessary that His Majesty should act according to the contents of this *'arzī*. What can he expect from a handful of men [at Allahabad] and why should he depend on them while here there are *lākhs* of people at his disposal? His Majesty should consider that there is only one person who is firm in his allegiance to him. That person is Najību'd-Daulah and he is alone. Consequently if His Majesty does not advance to Delhi, it is certain that she will be killed. Implores His Majesty in Heaven's name to have some regard for the preservation of her honour and the life of his son and to rouse himself to recover his crown. Asks him also to attach to this letter the weight of a thousand letters, to reply to it immediately he receives it, and to take action at once. Sends a letter for the . . . *from Najību'd-Daulah. The . . . *is faithful and is dependent on His Majesty only. Let His Majesty make himself easy with respect to him.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 130, pp. 66-7. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 133.

June 20. **271**. The King to Najību'd-Daulah. Has seen the *'arzī* which the addressee sent to His Majesty's mother. What he writes in that *'arzī* is true and just. Some time ago His Majesty wrote to the addressee intimating his resolve to proceed to the capital and desiring the addressee to repair to the Presence. But he did not send any reply. His Majesty consequently concluded that in the addressee's opinion the time was not favourable for such an expedition. For his own part, His Majesty has long and anxiously wished to behold his Royal mother once more. All his time is employed in revolving that thought in his mind. Thanks be to the Almighty that the addressee has written once again to His Majesty to advance to the capital, and that he thinks the present occasion favourable for the expedition. But the addressee knows well that the wicked Ghāzīu'd-Dīn is with the Mahrattas and that he is constantly engaged in the commission of new crimes and the creation of fresh troubles, regardless of the salt he has eaten. His Majesty relies on the wisdom and loyalty of the addressee to defeat the schemes of Ghāzīu'd-Dīn and separate him from the Mahrattas. At present His Majesty thinks it most advisable that the Mahrattas should canton at Gwalior or on the other side of Sehansy [Jhansi ?] because the rainy season is near at hand. Here it has already begun. In this season no further operations can be conducted by the Mahrattas. Nor are His Majesty's preparations completed. Some time will be necessary for His Majesty to summon his 'brother' the Vazīr to his Presence and for the Vazīr to get ready his artillery. Moreover, it is essential that

* Here there are blanks in the volume of translations.

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His Majesty should secure the support of the English *sardārs*. During the rainy season the addressee should employ himself in perfecting his plans, while His Majesty will apply himself to the necessary preparations. After the rains His Majesty will summon the addressee to Allahabad and set out hence in company with him. For nearly twelve years he has served His Majesty faithfully. The whole Empire is resounding with the praises of his loyalty, and His Majesty heartily acknowledges it. Now that victory is near and the day of His Majesty's establishing himself at the capital is approaching, he is persuaded that the addressee will not show slackness or hesitation. The Almighty has ordained him to be the instrument of His Majesty's restoration to his hereditary Empire. Is ashamed to confess that His Majesty has not yet rewarded his services, but assures him that he is bound to reap the fruit of them one day. After God and His Prophet it is the addressee to whom His Majesty consigns the honour of the house of Tīmūr. In God and His Prophet he reposes his trust and to the addressee he commits his honour. Calls God and His Prophet to witness that he will keep his promise to march to the capital after the rains. It is true that His Majesty formerly made the same promises, but did not fulfil them. The present case, however, is different. In the past His Majesty did not take an oath as he has done now. Desires him to send a speedy reply to this *shuqqah*.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 131, pp. 67-8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 120.

June 20. **272**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Acknowledges the receipt of his letter saying that the *Puniā* is over, and sending a congratulatory *naẓr*.

Cop. I., 1770, no 44, p. 31.

June 21. **273**. To the Sēṭhs. Has received their letter saying that they were honoured with *khal'ats* on the occasion of the *Puniā*, and sending a congratulatory *naẓr*. Offers compliments.

Cop. I., 1770, no 51, pp. 39-40.

June 21. **274**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received his letter together with the *ḍālīs* of melons sent by him through Shaikh Burhānu'd-Dīn. Intimates that many of the melons had gone bad.

Cop. I., 1770, no 52, p. 40.

June 21. **275**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received his several letters containing news. Although there are many people who send him news, yet it is the writer from whom he expects to receive a detailed account of all that goes on in that part of the country.

Cop. I., 1770, no 54, pp. 40-1.

June 21. **276**. To the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Has received his letter intimating that Mr Becher and Muḥammad Riẓā Khān went to the fort where they personally invested His Excellency's mother with the supreme control of the *Niẓāmat* household. Offers compliments on the occasion.

Cop. I., 1770, no 57, p. 42.

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June 21. **277.** To [Babbū Bēgam] mother of the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Congratulates her on being invested formally with the supreme control of the *Nizāmat* household.

Cop. I., 1770, no 58, pp. 42-3.

June 21. **278.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. As the writer is desirous of presenting the *Zamīndār* and the *Dīvān* of Burdwan with one elephant each, he requests the Khān to send him two elephants for the purpose.

Cop. I., 1770, no 59, p. 43.

June 25. **279.** From the Vazīr. Writes to the Governor on a certain subject with which he has not troubled His Excellency before. Does not think it advisable to lock the matter in his breast lest the harmony which exists between him and the English may be affected thereby. When he was last in the Presence, Colonel Galliez asked His Majesty why the writer had brought so many troops with him. His Majesty replied that he had brought them in pursuance of the Royal orders. On another occasion when the writer had sent for his troops [from Faizabad to Allahabad] the Colonel publicly asked him why he had done so. About two months ago the Colonel had one of the writer's *harkārahs* arrested. Leaves the Governor to imagine whether such behaviour on the part of the Colonel is likely to increase or diminish the friendship existing between the writer and the English. Many an English *sardār* has attended in the Presence, but none has been guilty of such behaviour. As the Governor is favourably disposed towards the writer and His Excellency's letters always contain professions of friendship, and as the writer has taken a fresh oath and is day and night employed in strengthening the bond of friendship existing between him and the English, what is he to think of the Colonel's behaviour? Has written this not because he is angry, but because he is afraid that such proceedings on the part of the Colonel will weaken the alliance between the writer and the English. Encloses an *'arẓī* which he has received from Ēlich Khān regarding a fresh incident that has occurred at the Court. Assures the Governor that the facts related in that *'arẓī* are strictly true. When after the assault made on Munīru'd-Daulah at the palace gate, orders were given to post an English guard there, the writer was extremely glad since he regards the people of the English Company as his. He never believed that such an incident would ever take place at the Court. Hopes that the Governor will take proper measures to stop a recurrence of it, else how can the writer go to the Presence? His Majesty has persistently been inviting him to Allahabad, but he has not accepted the invitation owing to the incident referred to above.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 132, pp. 68-70. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 146.

June 25. **280.** Ēlich Khān to the Vazīr. 'To-day' while Prince Mirzā Husain Ᾱlī Khān, Rāy Kishn Narāyan and the writer were going to the Royal *darbār*, the *Ṣūbahdār* of the guard of English sepoys committed a fresh outrage by assaulting one of the Prince's *chōbdārs* and a servant of the writer's and forbidding them to enter the gate. The writer remonstrated with the *Ṣūbahdār* telling him that as the

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above-mentioned attendants did not carry arms, he had no right to act in the way he did, [and that moreover the writer was a representative of the Vazīr]. The *Ṣūbahdār* replied 'You must not presume on the name of the Vazīr. I have seen many such Vazīrs.' The writer was afraid to create a disturbance, otherwise he would have punished the fellow, for a big word had fallen from the lips of a little man. However when His Majesty came from the *Āish Maḥal* and took his seat in the hall of audience, the writer immediately went up to him and acquainted him with what had passed. Ḥusāmu'd-Dīn K͟hān seconded the writer. His Majesty expressed great indignation at the occurrence and sent Rām Nāth immediately to Colonel Galliez with an account of the insolent conduct of the *Ṣūbahdār*. If the august name of the addressee had not been reviled, the writer would not have complained to His Majesty. It is significant that when two hours afterwards, Najaf K͟hān came to the *darbār*, the English sepoys let him pass the gate with a retinue of fifty sepoys, armed with pistols and other weapons.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 132 A, pp. 70-1. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 146.

June 25. 281. From the Vazīr. His Majesty has at length pardoned the Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah in response to the representations of the writer and the English *sardārs*. Requests the Governor to send the Nawab immediately to Allahabad where he will be graciously received by His Majesty.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 133, p. 71. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 146.

June 25. 282. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Intimates that M. Canonje and two other Frenchmen whom he had sent under a guard to Murshidabad, have returned to Patna. They have brought a letter from Muḥammad Riẓā K͟hān for the writer. Encloses the same and requests to know how he should act in the matter.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 134, pp. 71-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 136.

June 25. 283. Muḥammad Riẓā K͟hān to Raja Shitāb Rāy. Informs the Raja that M. Canonje and the other two gentlemen have licence from the Government to carry on their business at Patna, but are not permitted to cross the frontiers of that district.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 134 A, p. 72. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 136.

June 25. 284. From Sayyid Muḥammad K͟hān. Will, as ordered by the Governor, supply His Excellency with correct information regarding all transactions at the *chaukī*. Is discharging his duty most diligently.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 135, p. 72. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 148.

June 25. 285. *Najību'd-Daulah to Takōjī Hulkar. There are several matters which the writer has revolved in his mind and which must be attended to if the writer and the addressee are to achieve their common objects. One of the matters is that in order to break the pride of the *sardārs* of Hindustan, it is absolutely necessary to have the pageant of a King in the Rohilla-

* This letter was intercepted by the Vazīr's *harkārahs* and sent to the Committee by Colonel Harper.

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Mahratta army. The addressee knows that for some time the King, Shujā'u'd-Daulah and the English have been one. Now if the writer and the addressee send for the Prince from Delhi, it will create dissensions among those three powers, for the Vazīr and the English will think that His Majesty is at the bottom of the scheme. It will also cause many chiefs to join the writer and the addressee and thus affairs will be settled without difficulty. If this plan meets with the addressee's approbation, he is requested to consult with the other *sardārs* and to let the writer know the decision that may be arrived at. Requests also to be informed whether he is in favour of inviting the Prince before or after the coming meeting between the writer and the addressee. Implores the addressee to reply soon. Will set out for Mathura 'tomorrow' and be with him shortly.

PS.—Has been informed of the several particulars the addressee wrote to Bhīg Rāo and Raja Parsād Rām. Agrees with the addressee on all points. His interests and those of the writer are the same.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 136, pp. 72-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 132.

June 25. **286.** *The King to the Vazīr. Encloses copies of an *'arẓi* from Najību'd-Daulah, of His Majesty's reply to that *'arẓī* and of a letter from the Queen-mother. Asks the Vazīr to give careful thought to the contents of these letters. In response to the oft-repeated solicitations of Najību'd-Daulah, His Majesty has resolved to proceed to the capital after the rains, and is now employed in making preparations for the journey. It is necessary that his 'brother' the Vazīr should also prepare himself for the expedition. Has written to the English *sardārs* about this matter. Will write to them once more when the start is about to be made. Declares on oath that he is determined to march to the capital after the rains. Hopes that the addressee will be ready to accompany His Majesty at that time.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 137, p. 73. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 120.

June 25. **287.** The King to Najību'd-Daulah. Promises to proceed to the capital after the rains.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 138, p. 73. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 120.

June 25. **288.** The Queen-mother to the King. There are two great *amīrs* left in Hindustan. One is Najību'd-Daulah, *Bakhshī* of the Empire, and the other, Shujā'u'd-Daulah, Vazīr of the Empire. His Majesty is wavering between the two. Advises him to make one at least his own. As to anything else, he is master of his will. He must assemble troops and do something. Is given to understand that a King should be fond of camp life. It is strange that he has no pride in Empire or in war. Adjures him to advance to the capital and take charge of his affairs. He must not let go this opportunity, otherwise he will greatly rue it.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 139, pp. 73-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 133.

* This letter was sent to Calcutta by Captain Harper.

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June 25. **289**. The Vazīr to the King. Has received His Majesty's two *shuqqahs*, one desiring him to appoint a force to protect the frontier, and the other informing him of His Majesty's determination to advance to the capital after the rains and commanding him to begin preparing himself to accompany His Majesty in the expedition. In reply to His Majesty's first *shuqqah*, says that he has already dispatched troops to the frontiers, and that he himself will remain at Lucknow in obedience to the Royal commands. With regard to His Majesty's second *shuqqah*, says that he is willing and ready with his army and artillery to accompany His Majesty to the capital, but that it would be better if His Majesty first settled upon a plan with the English *sardārs*. Has read the Queen-mother's letter and Najību'd-Daulah's *'arẓī*, and entirely agrees with His Majesty. All that is wanting is that His Majesty should communicate with the English *sardārs* and settle the matter with them. Has, as desired, forwarded His Majesty's [second] *shuqqah* to the Governor. Refers His Majesty to Elich Khān for particulars.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 140, p. 74. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 150.

June 25.* **290**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Some time ago, the writer received his letter concerning the memorial of the *'amaldārs* and *zamīndārs*. Owing to the arrival of ships from Europe and the consequent pressure of business, the writer could not reply to it at that time, but the Committee very promptly sent instructions on the subject to Mr Becher. The latter must, by this time, have communicated those instructions to the Khān. It would therefore be unnecessary to repeat them in this letter. Has already written to the Khān that the English *sardārs* have great hopes of him in this matter. Is confident that he will not disappoint them. Assures him on behalf of the Committee that if he shows proper zeal and fidelity in the execution of the new scheme, it will lead to the increase of his dignity and reputation.

Cop. I., 1770, no 60, pp. 43-4. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 96, p. 206. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 80.

July 8. **291**. From Raja Rājballabh, *Pēshkār* of the *Khāliṣah*. His father, the late Mahārājā Mahindar, had been a faithful servant of the Company from the time of Mīr Ja'far. The Mahārājā served the Company no less faithfully during the war with Sirāju'd-Daulah. He also displayed proper zeal in chastising the Dutch at the port of Makwa. Later on during the campaign against Mīr Qāsim he never spared himself but underwent every difficulty with cheerfulness. In the war with the Vazīr also he rendered valuable services to the Company. Consequently when Lord Clive came to India for the second time, he conferred on the Mahārājā the office of *Dīvān* together with a stipend and a *jāgīr*, and on the writer the *Pēshkārī* of the *Khāliṣah*. Now that the Mahārājā is dead, the writer regards himself as his heir in loyalty as well as in possessions. As during the lifetime of his father,

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the writer managed his office as well as his own, and as the dependants of his father's family are numerous and their household expenses heavy, the writer requests that he may be granted the office, salary and *jāgīr* of his father and that his own office and *jāgīr* may be bestowed upon his son.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 141, p. 75. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 143.

July 8. **292.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Acknowledges the receipt of the Governor's consolatory letter, and requests His Excellency to procure for him the Royal *sanads* for his *zamīndārī* and paternal honours. Refers him for particulars to Birj Kishōr and Kishn Narāyan Mittar.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 142, p. 75. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 138.

July 8. **293.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has charged his *vakīl*, Kāshī Nāth, to lay before the Governor certain important matters. Requests the Governor to pay attention to what the *vakīl* will communicate to him by word of mouth.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 143, pp. 75-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 126.

July 8. **294.** *From the King. At the end of last *Muḥarram* Rs 15,12,483-10 annas were due to the Royal *Sarkār*. Out of this sum, His Majesty has, up to the present, received Rs 2,70,000 only. As the Bengal tribute is His Majesty's main source of income, the fact that the Governor has, for some time, been dilatory in paying the instalments, has caused His Majesty great inconvenience. Requests him therefore to direct Mr Becher and the ministers at Murshidabad to pay up the balance through Raja Shitāb Rāy, and henceforth to send the instalments regularly every month. Hopes that the Governor will readily comply with this His Majesty's request.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 144, p. 76. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 120.

July 12. **295.** From the King. Has received the Governor's *'arẓī* enclosing, on behalf of Mubāraku'd-Daulah, a bill for 1 *lākh* of rupees, being part of the stipulated *pēshkash* of 3 *lākhs* of rupees. Offers thanks and requests that the remaining 2 *lākhs* may be sent without delay as His Majesty is in straitened circumstances. The *sanads* are ready and will be sent when the balance of the *pēshkash* has been received.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 145, pp. 76-7. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 120.

July 12. **296.** From Najaf Khān. Some time ago the writer was obliged to borrow a certain sum of money from Āqā Raḥīm, a merchant here. Has now given him, in satisfaction of his debt, a receipt for Rs 60,000. Requests that on his presenting the receipt, Rs 60,000 may be paid to him from the Company's treasury and the amount deducted from the two *lākhs* due to the writer on account of his allowance.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 146, p. 77. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 131.

July 12. **297.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the Governor's letter regarding the appointment of the English supervisors and the

* This letter was transmitted to the Governor by Mr Alexander.

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objections of the *zamīndārs* thereto. What the Governor has been pleased to say in his letter is entirely for the writer's benefit. In informing the Governor of the objections of the *zamīndārs* to the appointment of the English supervisors, the writer meant no more than to save his own honour and reputation. Although the scheme is truly wise and judicious and is bound to tend to the good administration of the Company's affairs, the prosperity of the country and the security of the people, yet as the natives of this country look no further than the present, they failed to appreciate these advantages and with one voice raised objections. The writer, fearing lest his concealing the objections might afterwards be misconstrued and be detrimental to his interests, laid before the Governor a detailed account of the transaction. Now since His Excellency and the Committee, after weighing everything, have determined to put into execution the original scheme, the writer is ready to assist them. Intimates that even before the arrival of the Governor's letter, he had calmed the apprehensions of the *'āmils* and *zamīndārs*, arranged a *band-o-bast*, agreed to the proposals, of which a copy has been sent to His Excellency, and sent the *'āmils* and *zamīndārs* to their respective districts that they might carry on their business free from anxiety. Since the very inception of this scheme, the writer has had nothing in view but the satisfaction of the gentlemen of the Committee and the faithful performance of their orders. Will not fail the Committee in any matter much less in the execution of the present scheme from which the Governor expects such great advantages—advantages to which the writer also confidently looks forward. Repeats once more that the fact of his communicating to the Governor the objections of the *'āmils* and *zamīndārs* was nothing more than what the writer's honour required, and hopes that the Governor will not impute to him any other motive for acting as he did. By the blessing of God, his services for the proper establishment of the Company's affairs are not unknown to the Company and the assistance he has given on the present occasion is no secret to the Governor. Pledges his word that he will use his best endeavours to make the scheme a success.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 147, pp. 77-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 126.

July 12.* **298.** To the Vazīr. Is surprised to learn of the incident that has happened at Allahabad. Considering the fact that such a union of hearts and interests subsists between the addressee and the English *sardārs*, a premeditated attack on his dignity by a dependant of the Company is unpardonable. It is more so because it has always been the policy of the English *sardārs* to uphold his dignity and honour. Assures him that should such an incident really happen, the writer will punish the culprit most severely. Thinks, however, that the Allahabad incident is not so serious. The addressee knows very well that soldiers are generally barbarous and quarrelsome and that howsoever their officers may punish them, it has little effect on them. If he reconsiders this point, his anger will be lessened and he will see that he was not justified in using the bitter language he did in his

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letter. It is not reasonable that he should condemn all the English *sardārs* for the vulgar conduct of a *ṣūbahdār* of their army. Should the addressee and the English attach importance to such incidents, there will be no limit to mutual recrimination and heart-burning; and when their enemies will see the alliance which was their dread, broken not by change of circumstances or through political considerations but by such a trifling incident, they will laugh and make jokes. In short, to attach undue importance to the incident that has occurred at Allahabad is neither wise nor worthy of the high-mindedness of the addressee. But let the cause which has given him offence be what it may, since he has addressed the writer on the subject, he has sent a proper reprimand to Colonel Galliez who, the writer flatters himself, will in future do nothing to displease the addressee. If, however, the Colonel sometimes errs from inadvertence, it is hoped that the addressee will not mind it. Has also ordered the *Ṣūbahdār* to be tried; and in the event of his being found guilty, he will be severely punished. Hopes that this will satisfy the addressee. Assures him once more that the English *sardārs* are really anxious for the maintenance of his honour and dignity and that none of their dependants can dare insult him.

Cop. I., 1770, no 61, pp. 44-6. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 97, pp. 206-7. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 90.

July 14.* **299.** To Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. Has been informed that Mr Motte has recently had a diamond of considerable value stolen from his house, notwithstanding that the Raja's *chaukīdārs* were posted close by. Has also been informed that the *chaukīdārs*, contrary to custom, refuse to be responsible for the loss of the diamond. As the said gentleman is living under the immediate protection of the Raja, is a subject of the English Company and has often been commended to him by the writer, it is hoped that the Raja will make a vigorous inquiry into the matter and give a just decision. It is said that thieves are regularly licensed in the city of Benares on agreeing to pay a certain proportion of their booty to the Government. If so, it is all the more incumbent on the Raja to exert himself in the matter.

Cop. I., 1770, no 65, pp. 47-8. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 98, pp. 207-8. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 85.

July 16.* **300.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received his letter together with the one addressed to the Raja by Muḥammad Riẓā Khān on the subject of M. Canonje. Has no objection to that gentleman's residing at Patna for the purpose of carrying on trade, provided he obeys the orders of the *Niẓāmat* and does not cross the

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frontier of the *ṣūbah*. But it is the duty of the Raja to see that M. Canonje conforms to these conditions.

Cop. I., 1770, no 64, p. 47. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 99, p. 208. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 85.

July 18. **301.** From the King. As the Governor has written to His Majesty several letters in favour of Munīru'd-Daulah, His Majesty is now going to explain himself fully on the subject. Munīru'd-Daulah acted for a long time as *Nāib* to the Vazīr and as such displayed so much zeal, honesty and ability that His Majesty was highly pleased with him and ranked him among the most faithful and approved servants of the Court. It was never His Majesty's desire that he should, even for a moment, be absent from the Royal presence. He; however, got disgusted with the artifices of designing men and left the Royal Court under the pretence of visiting the holy places. Since he did so without the Royal consent, he incurred His Majesty's displeasure. However, as he has not gone on a pilgrimage to Mecca, and has written several *'arẓīs* full of expressions of humility and resignation, and as, moreover, the Governor has interceded for him, His Majesty has recalled him to the Court. But he declines to come back until he has performed the pilgrimage. Desires the Governor, immediately on receipt of this *shuqqah*, to send Munīru'd-Daulah to Allahabad. Should he raise the question of his reinstatement in his former office, the Governor may tell him that excepting the Royal household which will be under the immediate control of His Majesty himself, every other affair will be entrusted to him. Intends to bestow upon him some presents and honours.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 148, p. 79. Abs. R., 1766-71, pp. 120-1.

July 21. **302.** To Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Has received the Raja's letter through Birj Kishōr Rāy and Prān Kishn. Informs the Raja that he has been confirmed in the *zamīndārī* of his late father. Sends a *khal'at* and an elephant which will be presented to him by Mr John Graham on behalf of the Company. Birj Kishōr Rāy and Prān Kishn Mittar also have been honoured with *khal'ats*, while the former has also received an elephant as the emblem of his appointment to the *Dīvānī* of Burdwan.

Cop. I., 1770, no 62, p. 46.

July 21. **303.** To Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. Has not heard from the Raja for a long time. Although the writer receives news of that part of the country from various sources, yet he always appreciates what the Raja writes to him. Requests him therefore to send letters.

Cop. I., 1770, no 66, p. 48.

July 22.* **304.** To the King. Has been informed by Colonel Galliez that he has advanced in all Rs 60,000 to Najaf Khān. Requests His

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Majesty to grant a *tankhwāh* for that sum on the Bengal tribute in favour of the Colonel. His Majesty can deduct the amount from Najaf Khān's allowance.

Cop. I., 1770, no 63, pp. 46-7. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 100, p. 208. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 77.

July 24. **305**. From Razīu'd-Dīn Muhammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Has returned from Murshidabad to Hooghly. After staying there for two or three days to settle some accounts, he will wait upon the Governor in Calcutta. Hearing that the French were planting bamboos on both sides of their ditch which was destroyed last year, the writer sent for the French *vakīl* for an explanation. The French *vakīl* stated that the bamboos were not being planted at the expense of the *Nizāmat*, and that therefore they could not be an object of offence to it. Has mentioned this matter because he thinks that in the course of six months or a year these bamboos will form a defence superior to a stone wall.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 149, pp. 79-80. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 140.

July 24. **306**. From Udēpūrī Gusain. Has arrived at Cuttack. Reminds the Governor of his promise to send for him in two months which have nearly expired, and represents that as the Mahārājā, his master, has ordered him to proceed direct to Nagpur, should the Governor's reply to this letter not arrive soon, he will perforce proceed without it and relate all circumstances to the Mahārājā. Has received for the Governor letters which he will dispatch later by his *vakīl*. Will do everything in his power to maintain friendly relations between the Mahārājā and the English during the negotiations.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 150, p. 80. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 133.

July 24. **307**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. News has arrived from Kora to the following effect. The *zamīndārs* of Ajitmal and Khanpur Auraiya depending on the district of Etawa invited Bālā Rāo and Gangā [Dhar], sons of Gōpāl Pandit, the late *Faujdār* of Kalpi, to cross the Jumna. Bālā Rāo and Gangā accepted the invitation and crossing the river with the assistance of those *zamīndārs*, subdued Auraiya and several other places in the Etawa district without the smallest opposition from the Rohillas who fled on their approach. The success of the Mahrattas was due more to the cowardice of the Rohillas than their own strength, which, however, is daily increasing. As Etawa is only 40 *kōs* from Agra, and as Rām Chand Ganēsh with other *sardārs* is encamped on this side of the city near Farrukhabad and Shikohabad, which are 20 *kōs* from Etawa, it is probable that Bālā Rāo may get reinforcements from Rām Chand Ganēsh. If so, Kora Jahanabad will be exposed to great danger seeing that its boundary is contiguous to that of Etawa and that the *Faujdār* of Kora Jahanabad is not strong enough to withstand the Mahrattas.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 151, pp. 80-1. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 136.

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July 25. **308**. From the King. In response to the Governor's repeated letters in favour of Munīru'd-Daulah, His Majesty has issued a *shuqqah* pardoning him and summoning him to Allahabad. Requests the Governor to send him to the Presence without delay, and to write frequent letters containing advice on the present state of affairs.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 152, p. 81. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 121.

July 29. **309**. To Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān. Has been informed by Ghulām Ḥusain Khān of the addressee's views regarding the usefulness of an alliance between the Rohillas and the English. Agrees with the addressee and says that such an alliance will go a long way to bring prosperity and happiness to the people of Hindustan. Assures him that the English will always be anxious to maintain friendly relations with him. Refers him for particulars to Ghulām Ḥusain Khān.

Cop. I., 1770, no 67, pp. 48-9. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 101, pp. 208-9. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 75.

July 30. **310**. From the Vazīr. His Majesty has issued several *shuqqahs* to the writer's 'brother' Munīru'd-Daulah summoning him to Allāhabad. As the Governor interceded with His Majesty on his behalf and addressed the writer also on the subject, now that the writer has prevailed upon His Majesty to pardon Munīru'd-Daulah and to recall him to the Court, it is necessary that the Governor should send him without delay. Every matter concerning Munīru'd-Daulah will be satisfactorily settled. A *khal'at* has already been prepared for him.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 153, p. 81. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 146.

July 30. **311**. From the King. Requests the Governor to send Munīru'd-Daulah to the Court without delay.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 154, p. 81. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 121.

July 30. **312**. From the King. Has received the Governor's *'arẓī* requesting that Najaf Khān may be pardoned and reinstated in the *Faujdārī* of Kora. As His Majesty is fully convinced of the Governor's loyalty and attachment, he always acts according to his advice. Intimates that it is only to please the Governor that His Majesty has recalled Munīru'd-Daulah to the Court, and that it was also with the same object that though a balance of between 9 and 10 *lākhs* proved to be due from Najaf Khān, His Majesty deducted Rs 2,50,000 only from his salary and remitted the remainder. How ill His Majesty can bear such a loss, the Governor knows very well since he is fully acquainted with the state of His Majesty's finances. If His Majesty had allowed 500 horse to Najaf Khān, it would have been the utmost that His Majesty could afford, yet for the Governor's sake he permitted the Khān to retain his *risālah* on its original establishment. As regards the question of his restoration to the *Faujdārī* of Kora, His Majesty says that that is not the only office in the Royal gift and that he will confer some other office upon the Khān, for His Majesty places the Governor's satisfaction before everything else and considers the Khān

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loyal and worthy of esteem. Has already informed the Governor and the other English *sardārs* of his intention to march towards the capital immediately after the rains and requested them to order Colonel Galliez to be ready to accompany His Majesty with four or five battalions. As His Majesty is still determined to proceed to the capital after the rains, he requests the Governor to issue fresh orders to the Colonel on the subject. Requests also that four or five battalions more may be sent to Allahabad with all speed in order that they may arrive in time to accompany His Majesty with the other troops.

PS.—Some time ago the Governor promised that whenever His Majesty decided to march to the capital, he would direct Colonel Galliez to accompany His Majesty with four battalions. The time has come for the Governor to fulfil his promise. Hopes that he will do so.

N.B.—The postscript was in the King's own handwriting.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 155, pp. 81-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 121.

Aug. 1.* **313**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has been informed by Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly, that the French are planting lines of bamboos on either side of their ditch which was destroyed last year, and that he has ordered the French to discontinue the work. As he has acted properly, the addressee is requested to see that his orders are strictly enforced.

Cop. I., 1770, no 69, pp. 51-2. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 102, p. 209. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 80.

Aug. 1.† **314**. To the King. Has not been able to reply to His Majesty's *shuqqahs* earlier as the affairs regarding which His Majesty has consulted him are extremely weighty and require deep consideration, and as the writer has lately been very busy. As regards His Majesty's intention of marching to the capital at the end of the rainy season, says that considering the dangers that surround such an undertaking, and the past and present conduct of the Mahrattas, considering too their innate treachery, the writer will never advise His Majesty to undertake the expedition. Cannot understand what has caused His Majesty to entertain such a good opinion of the Mahrattas, and by what fresh proof of loyalty they have succeeded in removing from His Majesty's mind the impressions of years of perfidy. What guarantee is there that they will give up their old ways and surrender to His Majesty the conquests which they have been accustomed to divide among themselves? Let His Majesty reflect for a moment that they are the old enemies of the house of Tīmūr and that they have risen on the ruins of the Moghal Empire. It is not their interest alone that is opposed to the re-establishment of the Empire, their religion also is opposed to it. In these circumstances even an honourable nation is liable to rouse suspicion, much more so are the Mahrattas who are notorious for their faithlessness. They say that they have come to regulate the affairs of the Empire. If by this they mean to oppress and insult the

* Aug. 4 and July 29 according to the volumes of copies and abstracts respectively.
† Aug. 4 and 11 according to the volumes of copies and abstracts respectively.

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sardārs of Hindustan, what they say is true, and they have already succeeded in their object. In their negotiations with the Jāṭs, they are insisting on the latter's paying large sums of money and surrendering vast tracts of land and strong forts. Whether in this business the Mahrattas are acting in their own interests or in those of His Majesty, His Majesty can well judge without any comment of the writer's. If they have levied large contributions from the Rājpūts, they have enriched themselves and not sent any *pēshkash* to His Majesty. And if they have become the terror of the whole of Hindustan, it has contributed to their glory and not to His Majesty's. Desires to know if a single rebellious chief has been subdued or a single coin added to His Majesty's treasury through them. Sensible of the fact that His Majesty is firm in his refusal to accept their invitation, they are now trying to gain that object by means of His Majesty's mother. Hopes that His Majesty will carefully consider this matter. The opinion of the writer and of all the English *sardārs* is that His Majesty should not plunge into the sea of troubles. As the people whom His Majesty is about to trust, are noted for treachery, should they deceive or disobey His Majesty, the writer is afraid that His Majesty will become the sport of the waves of misfortune for the rest of his life. His Majesty should remember that an arrow, when once shot from the bow, can by no means be recalled.

Cop. I., 1770, no 68, pp. 49-51. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 103, pp. 209-10. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 77.

Aug. 2. **315**. From Najaf Khān, *Faujdār* of Kora. The *mutaṣaddīs* of the sublime *Sarkār* have maliciously confused his accounts. After deducting from his salary a balance of 3 *lākhs* of rupees—part of this balance being wholly fictitious—the *mutaṣaddīs* agreed that the arrears of his troops would be paid by the *Sarkār*. As it was his duty to submit to the Royal pleasure, and as he hoped that, after this settlement, he would be relieved of troublesome demands, he did not dispute over the inaccuracies in the accounts, but consented to the terms offered to him. Accordingly he gave in his musters, and was preparing his accounts when the *mutaṣaddīs* broke their word and from time to time put off the payment of the arrears, making unreasonable and frivolous excuses for so doing. Their design appears to be to invent a new demand for one or two *lākhs* of rupees besides the 3 *lākhs* already mentioned, so as to balance the account and even to cause a considerable difference in the King's favour. By this means they hope to humiliate him and bring him into discredit. Is at a loss what to do. Even if he sells all his effects, the proceeds will not enable him to pay the 3 *lākhs*, much less the accumulated arrears. His life and honour are made an object of attack, but he is not conscious of having committed any crime by which he has forfeited the regard of his sovereign and merited such indignities. On the contrary, his services have been dedicated to His Majesty and the Company. He is indeed unfortunate to have received such a return for his services. It was by the advice of the English

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sardārs that he came from Kora to Allahabad and submitted his neck to authority. The unjust dealings of His Majesty's *mutaṣaddīs* have brought him to this pass. For the last six months he has received nothing from His Majesty, and has had to support himself and keep his people together by borrowing Rs 1,07,000 from Colonel Galliez and 1,50,000 from the merchants. As this is the time when he needs the Governor's support, he has made His Excellency acquainted with his situation. Encloses an account of his stipend which amounts to Rs 2,65,199-10 annas. Over and above this sum, Rs 1,34,800 are also due to him. Requests the Governor to grant him bills for the balance of his stipend from the Company, as he has 'today' agreed with Colonel Galliez to retain his men for twenty days longer. Hopes that the Governor will not delay the sending of the bills for a single day, and that in future he will pay the writer his stipend regularly each month without the intervention of any one. In the past, since the writer held an appointment, a little delay in the payment of his stipend meant nothing; but now that it is his only means of subsistence, he requests the Governor to pay it regularly. Requests His Excellency also to deliver him from the hands of the *mutaṣaddīs* that the malice of their hearts may miss fire.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 156, pp. 83-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 131-2.

Aug. 2. **316**. Account of the money received by Najaf Khān from July 1768 to July 1770.

Received from the revenues of Kora but subsequently deducted for charges not allowed by the King	80,699	10	0
" from Āqā Raḥīm as *per* receipt	60,000	0	0
" from the Governor in bills	17,500	0	0
" from Colonel Galliez	1,07,000	0	0
Total	2,65,199	10	0
Balance still due	1,34,800	6	0
Grand Total	4,00,000	0	0

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 156 A, p. 84. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 131-2.

Aug. 2. **317**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. News has arrived that the Mahrattas have taken possession of Akbarpur, and that Aḥmad Khān's officer who was in command there, fled without offering any resistance.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 157, p. 84. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 136.

Aug. 4. **318**. From Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Intimates that the French have, in consequence of his orders, desisted from planting bamboos in the ditch.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 158, pp. 84-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 140.

Aug. 4. **319**. From the Vazīr. His Majesty has informed the writer of his intention to march to the capital after the rains and commanded him

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to be prepared for the expedition. His Majesty must have written to the Governor also on the subject. Since the writer undertakes nothing without first consulting the Governor, he requests His Excellency to advise him. As to the Governor's recommendation that the writer should form an alliance with the Rohillas for the destruction of the Mahrattas, says that it will certainly be a wise thing to do, but that he cannot do it without His Majesty's co-operation. Some time ago when General Smith was at Allahabad, an excellent and well-considered plan was decided upon and its articles were executed by all parties, but for some reason or other, nothing further was done. Now that on the one hand His Majesty has again conceived the idea of marching to the capital and ordered the writer to accompany him, and on the other hand, the Governor has advised him to join the Rohillas, he is in great perplexity. The rains will be over in two months, consequently he requests the Governor to send a reply without delay. His Excellency is perhaps aware that the writer advanced 10 *lākhs* to His Majesty and that His Majesty made on the Bengal tribute drafts to that amount. Has heard nothing from the Governor on the subject, though His Majesty says that the money will be paid to the writer on demand. Requests the Governor to reply to all the subjects mentioned in this letter.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 159, pp. 87-8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 146.

Aug. 6. **320.** From Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. Is firm in his loyalty and attachment to the English, and considers that he holds Benares through their favour. Has suffered much from sickness for the last two months, but has now been restored to health. His son Chait Singh is of mature age now and can attend to affairs of State. Requests that the favour which the Governor has been showing to the writer, may be extended to his son, in order that the latter may devote himself to the service of the English, and the writer himself lead a retired life in Benares praying for the prosperity of the Company for the remainder of his life.* Refers the Governor for particulars to Shaikh 'Alī Naqī who will shortly wait upon His Excellency in Calcutta.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 160, pp. 88-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 141.

Aug. 6. **321.** From the King. Expresses concern at not hearing from the Governor for a long time. As His Majesty is convinced that the advice which the Governor offers to him, is always calculated to promote His Majesty's interests, he wrote two successive *shuqqahs* to the Governor informing His Excellency of his fixed resolve to march to the capital after the rains. Strange that His Majesty has not yet received a reply to these *shuqqahs*. The accounts of the ravages which the Mahrattas are committing in the country of the Jāṭs are daily received here, and are no doubt regularly conveyed to the Governor. His Majesty is determined, as soon as the rains are over to march towards the capital with all his loyal *umarā* that by their united forces the perfidious Mahrattas may be punished. Should the procrastination or backwardness of any of his servants defeat His Majesty's plan, let them not

* A note in the volume of abstracts says that the Raja died on September 1, 1770.

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afterwards say that they were ready, but that His Majesty was irresolute and inactive. In order that no one may have any excuse to offer, His Majesty declares once more that he will, after the rains, march to the capital without fail. Some time ago the Governor promised that whenever His Majesty decided to do so, he would direct four or five battalions under an English *sardār* to escort His Majesty. The time has now come for the Governor to fulfil his promise. When His Majesty's 'brother,' dear as life, the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah was in the Presence last, he assured His Majesty that he also would accompany the expedition. Notwithstanding this, it is His Majesty's wish that the Governor should write to the Vazīr and induce him to join the expedition. There is an old adage to the effect that time which has passed, is like an arrow that has been shot from the bow, for neither can be recalled. Hopes that the Governor will remember this observation and send the promised battalions speedily. If the expedition is delayed, the present disturbances will not only increase but will become chronic. Now is the time to stop them. 'The source of a spring may be choked with a single clod; let it flow and an elephant cannot cross it.' Requests the Governor to let His Majesty know his well-weighed and mature opinion on the subject.*

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 161, pp. 89-91. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 121.

Aug. 10.§ **322.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has just received news to the effect that the advance guards of the Mahrattas which were stationed at Ajitmal Auraiya and Bouton [Bawayan?] have been routed by Shaikh Kabīr, *Nāib Faujdār* of Etawa, who is a dependant of Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 162, p. 91. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 136.

Aug. 10. **323.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. News has arrived to the following effect. A letter from Najību'd-Daulah to Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān was intercepted by the people of Takōjī Hulkar and taken to Rām Chandar Ganēsh. It is reported that it contained some reflections on the Mahrattas. Consequently a coolness has sprung up between Najību'd-Daulah and Rām Chandar Ganēsh. Najību'd-Daulah is desirous of setting out for Shahjahanabad, but Rām Chandar Ganēsh and the other Mahratta *sardārs* under the cloak of friendship prevent his departure. Formerly it was not the intention of the Mahrattas to adjust their dispute with Nēval Singh, but since learning the contents of Najību'd-Daulah's letter, they have resolved to come to terms with him. Accordingly Rām Chandar Ganēsh sent for Nēval Singh's *vakīl* and had with him a conference at which a satisfactory settlement was arrived at. The terms of the settlement are that Nēval Singh shall pay 65 *lākhs* of rupees in all, exclusive of the revenues accruing from the provinces conquered by Najību'd-Daulah and the Mahrattas; that out of the 65 *lākhs*, he shall pay 10 *lākhs* in

* A marginal note in the volume of translations says that the correspondence ending here was sent to England on the 13th September on board the *Lapwing*.

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twenty days, 15 *lākhs* in two months, Rs 7,50,000 in the month of *Phāgan* and the remaining half within three years; and that he shall also pay an annual *nazrānah* of 11 *lākhs* and settle a *jāgīr* of 20 *lākhs* upon Ranjīt Singh. The agreement has accordingly been drawn up and signed by the contracting parties. Rām Chandar Ganēsh's *dīvān* was to set out on the 16th *Rabī'* I to receive the money.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 163, pp. 91-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 136.

Aug. 10. **324**. The King to the Vazīr. Has received the Vazīr's letter saying that Raja Parsōtam Pandit and Tarmak Dās have brought *'arzīs* from the Mahratta *sardārs* for His Majesty, and that the *'arzīs* have been forwarded to His Majesty through Colonel Galliez. Has received the *'arzīs,* copies of which will shortly be sent to the Vazīr. His Majesty's answers to these *'arzīs* will also be communicated to him.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 166, p. 94. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 121.

Aug. 10. **325**. The King to Rāo Rām Chandar Ganēsh. Has received his *'arzī* saying that the strictest harmony subsists between him and His Majesty's 'brother,' dear as life, the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah; and promising to outrival the Vazīr and the English in serving His Majesty and settling the affairs of the Empire. Is greatly pleased to learn this. Believes his professions of loyalty and attachment, especially as the Vazīr has also commended him to His Majesty. Assures him that when he acts as he professes, His Majesty will treat him as graciously as he does the Vazīr and the English *sardārs.*

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 167, pp. 95-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 121.

Aug. 10. **326**. The King to Bājī Rāo. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 168, p. 96. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 122.

Aug. 10. **327**. The King to Mādhū Rāo. To the same effect as the one to Rāo Rām Chandar Ganēsh. (*See above* no 325.)

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 169, p. 96. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 122.

Aug. 10. **328**. The King to Takōjī Hulkar. To the same effect as the one to Rāo Rām Chandar Ganēsh.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 170, p. 96. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 122.

*Aug. 11.** **329**. To the King. Has received His Majesty's several *shuqqahs* intimating that His Majesty has decided to march to the capital, and desiring the writer to send four or five battalions in addition to the two battalions already promised, to accompany His Majesty in the expedition. His Majesty knows very well how ready the English have always been to defend His Majesty's dominions. In future also they will not fail His Majesty in his hour of need. But on comparing His Majesty's present *shuqqahs* with those of the past, the writer finds a considerable change in His Majesty's attitude towards the Mahrattas, and is at a loss to know whether His Majesty regards those people as his friends or foes. Hopes that His Majesty will communicate to the writer the real object of his intended expedition, the resources he has secured, and the alliances he

* Aug. 20 according to the volume of copies.

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has contracted. All this the writer, as His Majesty's true friend, is anxious to know, for in case His Majesty meets with a mishap, the writer is afraid that many of his so-called well-wishers may play him false. If His Majesty regards the Mahrattas as the enemies of the house of Tīmūr, and wants to crush their power, His Majesty should know that he has set himself a formidable task. He will have to spend much money and gain many victories before he achieves his object. And although the Vazīr will do his best to assist His Majesty, yet he cannot drive away the Mahrattas, strengthened as they have been by plundering the country of the Jāṭs. If His Majesty regards the Mahrattas as his friends, he is greatly mistaken, since they are notoriously fickle and untrustworthy. Advises him therefore to seek the support of the *umarā* of Hindustan instead of the Mahratta *sardārs*. Thinks that the *umarā* of Hindustan are not wholly degenerate and that one day they will rise as one man, and push the Mahrattas back to their own frontier. His Majesty should wait until the Mahrattas have been weakened by the dissensions prevailing among them. That will be the time when His Majesty should summon the *umarā* of Hindustan to his aid and proceed to the capital. Will, in the meantime, continue to advise His Majesty on the subject.

Cop. I., 1770, no 70, pp. 52-4. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 104, pp. 211-13. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 77.

Aug. 11.* **330.** To the Vazīr. It is quite natural that the addressee should be so anxious about His Majesty's intended expedition to the capital. The frankness with which the addressee has expressed himself on the subject, is worthy of the sincere friendship which exists between him and the English. An honest exchange of views between the two parties is of the utmost importance particularly at this time. What with the restlessness of His Majesty, the threatening attitude of the Mahrattas, the imprudence of the Rohillas, the hesitating policy of Najību'd-Daulah and the intrigues of Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān, there is ample material for anxiety. In the midst of this turmoil, it is well that the addressee is on his guard. But as it is not enough to remain inactive though ready, and as the people of Hindustan look upon him as their defender, he has acted wisely in sending help to the Rohillas. This will inspire them with that courage which seems to have deserted them at present, and enable them to drive away the Mahrattas. As a result of it, the addressee will become famous throughout Hindustan, and people will praise him for forgetting his old enmity with the Rohillas for the general good of the country. As to His Majesty's intention of marching to the capital, the writer also is at a loss to know how to represent the truth to His Majesty without incurring his displeasure. Admires the frankness with which the addressee has written that unless the English *sardārs* send a considerable force to the King, he will not accompany His Majesty in the expedition. Replies with equal frankness that considering the present state of affairs, it is inadvisable for His Majesty to proceed to the

* Aug. 20 according to the volume of copies.

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capital at the present time. Is consequently unwilling to send His Majesty the promised two battalions much less the four or five battalions which he now asks for. Advises the addressee to keep three things in view, first, the separation of Najību'd-Daulah from the Mahrattas, secondly, the encouragement and assistance of the Rohillas, thirdly, the effecting of unity among the Jāṭ chiefs. By these expedients the power of the Mahrattas will be easily reduced.

Cop. I., 1770, no 72, pp. 55-6. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 105, pp. 213-15. Abs. I., 1766-71, pp. 90-1.

Aug. 11.* **331**. To the King. Thanks His Majesty for showing favour to Najaf Khān particularly in the settlement of his accounts. Requests His Majesty to show the Khān further favour by paying the dues of his *risālah* from the Royal treasury and not charging them to his account. Represents that the Khān finds it very difficult to pay the balance of the revenue, and that if over and above that balance he is to pay the dues of his *risālah*, he will be obliged to disband it. This will be greatly prejudicial to His Majesty's interests, as the Khān is a distinguished soldier and his *risālah* consists of chosen men.

Cop. I., 1770, no 71, pp. 54-5. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 106, p. 215. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 78.

Aug. 11. **332**. To Najaf Khān, *Faujdār* of Kora. Has received his letter enclosing an account of his stipend. Has written to His Majesty requesting him not to charge the pay of the *risālah* to the Khān's account. As to his request for money, says that he cannot, without His Majesty's concurrence, advance any money to him. Has directed Colonel Galliez to intercede for him with His Majesty. Flatters himself that His Majesty will listen to the Colonel's representations.†

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 107, pp. 215-16.

Aug. 16. **333**. From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Has received, on his appointment to the *rāj* of Burdwan, a *khal'at*, an elephant etc. from the hands of his *Dīvān* Birj Kishōr Rāy. Professes loyalty and attachment for the Company, and says that he will attend diligently to the business of his office.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 164, pp. 92-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 142.

Aug. 17.‡ **334**. To the Vazīr. Has received a letter from Colonel Galliez regarding the Allahabad incident. He writes to say that upon his receiving a message from Ēlich Khān that the *ṣūbahdār* of the palace guard had misbehaved, he immediately placed the *ṣūbahdār* under arrest; that it was his intention to have him tried by court-martial; that two or three days afterwards an order came from His Majesty to release the *ṣūbahdār*, on the ground that what he had done was by His Majesty's directions; and that he was accordingly released. The Colonel further says by way of apology that the guard at the palace, though composed of English sepoys, is under the King's

* Aug. 20 according to the volume of copies.

† A marginal note in the volume of translation says 'here ends the correspondence sent to England on board the ship *Lapwing*'.

‡ Sept. 4 according to the volume of copies.

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orders; and that therefore he cannot be held responsible for any orders which His Majesty may think proper to issue to the guard. Hopes that this explanation will fully satisfy the addressee. Is strengthened in this hope by the letters which the addressee has written to the Colonel and in which he is pleased to thank the Colonel for the attention and politeness he has shown to the young Nawab on many occasions. Assures the addressee that if any person belonging to the English Governor betrays a lack of regard for the addressee's house, or insults any of his servants, it will cause the writer the greatest concern. Asks how much more concerned will he be when an affront is offered to the addressee's son.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 1, p. 1. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 108, pp. 216-17. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 91.

Aug. 21.* **335**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received his letter and verbal message through Raja Kāshī Nāth, to whom he refers the Khān for his views on the subject.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 2, pp. 1, 2. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 109, p. 217. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 80.

Aug. 23. **336**. From the King. Mr Davey who has resided here for some time, lately obtained His Majesty's permission to leave the Court and proceed to Calcutta. His Majesty has charged him with certain matters which he will lay before the Governor. Hopes that His Excellency will cheerfully comply with what His Majesty asks of him. Some time ago, Mahtāb Rāy, a *vakīl* of Prince Mirzā Muḥammad Akbar Shah's, was sent from here to Azimabad to take possession of the *parganah* Ghiaspur in the *ṣūbah* of Behar. The *parganah* is now in the hands of Tāju'd-Dīn Ḥusain Khān who holds it without the Royal *sanad* and authority. The above-named *vakīl*, on arriving at Azimabad, presented the Royal *shuqqahs*, which had been issued for the purpose to Mr Alexander and Raja Shitāb Rāy. They, in reply, have written *'arzīs* to His Majesty stating that they cannot dispose of a *jāgīr* without the permission of the chiefs of the Company. Requests that Mr Alexander and Raja Shitāb Rāy may be directed to allow the Prince's *vakīl* to take possession of the said *parganah*.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 165, pp. 93-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 121.

Aug. 26. **337**. From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends 1 *lākh* of rupees on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 171, p. 96. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 142.

Aug. 26. **338**. From [Birj Kishōr], *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 172, p. 96. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

Aug. 26. **339**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Harī Paṇḍit, a *vakīl* of Mādhū Rāo's, has arrived at Patna with dispatches from his master Rām Chandar Ganēsh, and will set out for Calcutta in a day or two.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 173, p. 96. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 136.

* Sept. 5 according to the volume of copies.

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Aug. 26.* **340.** To Sayyid Muḥammad Khān, *Dārōghah* of Kalpi. Desires him to search the ships belonging to the Dutch Company only with respect to the number of men and guns, and to detain the ships no longer than may be absolutely necessary.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 3, p. 2. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 110, p. 217. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 82.

Aug. 26.* **341.** To the *Nāib Dārōghah* of Kalpi. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 4, p. 2. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 111, p. 218. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 84.

Aug. 28. **342.** From the King. Has received the Governor's *'arzī* through Colonel Galliez and understood its contents. Agrees with the Governor that no reliance can be placed on the professions of the Mahrattas. At present His Majesty has no concern with that deceitful race. His business is to move his auspicious standards to Delhi, for he places the defence of his honour above every other consideration. God forbid that the least reflection should fall upon his family, for death itself is preferable to the loss of honour. Hopes that the Governor will send the promised five or six battalions under a good commander to accompany His Majesty and will also write to His Majesty's 'brother', dear as life, the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah, to repair with his forces to the Presence. This will give His Majesty the highest satisfaction and increase the Governor's reputation. At this time a *vakīl* on the part of Aḥmad Khān, Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān and the other Rohillas has arrived in the Presence. His Majesty is consequently determined to march to Delhi after the rains. Whatever befalls him there, His Majesty will attribute to his luck. The will of the Almighty is absolute and whatever He desires will come to pass. Has long been expecting a letter from his 'brother', the King of England, but none has yet arrived. Cannot remain here any longer. Bids the Governor goodbye, and requests him to send a speedy reply to this letter.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 174, pp. 97-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 122.

Aug. 28. **343.** To Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Acknowledges the receipt of a *nazr* of 1 gold mohur and 5 rupees sent by him on his investiture with the Burdwan *rāj*.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 112, p. 218. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 94.

Aug. 30. **344.** From the King. As regards Najaf Khān's salary of 2 *lākhs* of rupees *per annum* which is paid from the Bengal tribute, His Majesty has issued receipts for the amount due to the Khān for the two years ending the 12th *Rabī'* I. Requests the Governor to pay him the money. Requests also that Colonel Galliez may be directed in future to pay the Khān his salary punctually by monthly instalments, as he has no other source of income.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 175, p. 99. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 122.

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Sept. 1. **345.** From Najaf Khān *Faujdār* of Kora. Intimates that his account has been settled to His Majesty's satisfaction and that he has received due acknowledgment. The writer also would be satisfied if the pay of his troops for seven months were paid by the Royal *Sarkār*. Hopes that by the Governor's favour this also will be brought about. Ensign William Davie who has gone down to Calcutta, will acquaint the Governor with all particulars. Encloses an account of his salary for two years and of the sums deducted from it by the Royal *Sarkār*. Taking into consideration the sum of Rs 60,000 which he has borrowed from Āqā Raḥīm, a merchant, and shown as received in the account, there remains due to him from the Company the sum of Rs 1,14,600, a receipt for which has been sent to the Governor through Colonel Galliez. Hopes that the Governor will pay the writer the said amount without delay and relieve him from the importunities of his troops. Hopes also that since he is a protégé of the Company, he like all other servants of it may be paid his salary regularly every month. The salary being his only means of subsistence, a delay in its payment must cause him great inconvenience. Understands that His Majesty has also written to the Governor on the subject.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 176, pp. 99, 100. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 132.

Sept. 2.* **346.** To the Vazīr. Has been informed that the addressee has decided to appoint the son of Raja Balvant Singh, deceased, to succeed him. Praises the addressee for this generous act. It will win him not only the gratitude of the son of Raja Balvant Singh, but the good opinion of the English *sardārs* as well. Moreover, it will greatly add to the addressee's reputation and credit.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 6, p. 2. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 113, pp. 218-19. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 91.

Sept. 3. **347.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. With regard to the Governor's saying that owing to the famine prevailing in Bengal, he is unable to send to His Majesty the instalments of the tribute as regularly as before, represents that what the Governor says is quite true, but that from the time of Munīru'd-Daulah's quitting the Royal Presence which will be twelve months at the expiration of the present month, Rs 4,75,000 only have been received by His Majesty. Has written this for the Governor's information and will act according to his will and pleasure.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 177, pp. 100-1. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 136-7.

Sept. 4. **348.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received from Benares a paper of news containing an account of the death of Raja Balvant Singh.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 178, p. 101. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 137.

Sept. 4.* **349.** To Munīru'd-Daulah. His Majesty has, through the interposition of the English *sardārs*, graciously recalled the addressee to the Court. Has repeatedly told the addressee that he is at liberty to act as he likes in the matter, but he has not yet intimated his decision to the writer. The opinion of the English *sardārs* is that if the addressee

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goes back to the Court and remains there, the sun of the friendship that exists between him and the English, will shine more brightly. For the rest, he is master of his own will. And as he has a thorough knowledge of the Royal household and Court, he can best judge whether he can stay there with safety. Desires him to communicate his thoughts without ceremony. Will then do what he can for the addressee.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 7, p. 3. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 114, p. 219. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 82.

Sept. 4.* **350.** To the Vazīr. Has received his letter regarding Raja Balvant Singh's death. Before the receipt of the addressee's letter, the writer had heard the news and sent him a letter of thanks for showing favour to the son of Raja Balvant Singh. It is the principle of the English *sardārs* that when they form friendship with a person, they treat as friends his children and his children's children. Consequently the English *sardārs* are favourably disposed towards the son of Raja Balvant Singh. As the interests of the addressee and the English are identical, it is hoped that he also will treat the son of Raja Balvant Singh kindly, and settle the affairs of Benares in such a manner as may satisfy all parties.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 8, p. 3. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 115, p. 220. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 91.

Sept. 6.† **351.** From the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. As the writer and his mother both desire that he should be connected with a high family, and as in this part of the country there is no family higher than that of the deceased Muḥammad Faẓl 'Alī Khān, son of 'Aṭāu'llah Khān, the writer has determined to marry the daughter of Faẓl 'Alī Khān and proposes to have the ceremony of the *ṭhaṭhar-bandī* performed at the end of *Rajab*. The nuptials will be celebrated when it is the will of Heaven. As he regards the Governor as his master and guardian, he has written this for His Excellency's information.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 179, p. 101. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 129.

Sept. 8. **352.** From the Vazīr. Intimates that Raja Balvant Singh has died after a short and sudden illness, and that the writer has set out to settle the affairs of Benares. After his arrival there, he will inform the Governor of all the arrangements made. As the interests of the writer and the English are one, he has written this for the Governor's information.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 180, p. 101. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 146-7.

Sept. 8. **353.** From Chait Singh, son of Raja Balvant Singh. Intimates the death of his father, and solicits the favour and protection of the English *sardārs*.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 181, p. 101. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 114.

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Sept. 8. **354.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. On Sunday last Hari Pandit, the *vakīl* of Mādhū Rāo Pēshwā, arrived at Murshidabad and delivered to the writer a letter from Rām Chandar Ganēsh. Understands that he has brought letters also for the Governor from Mādhū Rāo and Rām Chandar Ganēsh, and that the object of his coming to Bengal is to strengthen the ties of friendship between the Mahrattas and the English *sardārs*. He is at present engaged in getting ready boats and other necessaries for his journey and will set out for Calcutta on Thursday next to have an interview with the Governor, and to deliver the letters. As the writer has never had any intercourse with Rām Chandar Ganēsh, he has thought it proper to forward his letter un-opened for the Governor's perusal.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 182, pp. 101-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 126.

Sept. 8. **355.** Rām Chandar Ganēsh to Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. In pursuance of the orders of his master, the Srīmant Pēshwā, who is anxious to settle the affairs of Hindustan and to strengthen his ancient friendship with the English *sardārs*, the writer has at this time dispatched Rāo Harī Pandit to Mr Cartier. Having heard of the Khān's virtues and good qualities, he writes this and informs him of his welfare.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 183, p. 102. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 144.

Sept. 9. **356.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Intimates that Mr Becher has left the city [Murshidabad].

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 184, p. 102. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 126.

Sept. 9.* **357.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the un-opened letter addressed by Rām Chandar Ganēsh to the Khān. Has perused the letter and returns it to him through Raja Kāshī Nāth.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 9, p. 4. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 116, p. 220. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 80.

Sept. 10. **358.** From Munīru'd-Daulah. Has received the Governor's letter, fragrant as ambergris, every syllable of which was expressive of His Excellency's favour and kindness to the writer. It is evident that His Excellency has made repeated representations to His Majesty on behalf of the writer and that His Majesty has consequently summoned him to the Court. States that he is living in peace and tranquillity under the protection of the English, for which he is extremely thankful to them, so much so that he is ready to give up his life in their service. However, if in the Governor's opinion, the writer's returning to the Court is necessary for the lasting interest of the Company and for the satisfactory adjustment of the Royal affairs, he is ready to proceed to Allahabad, but on condition that General Barker may be directed to protect him there as he considers himself one of the dependants and well-wishers of the Company. Makes repeated and emphatic declarations of loyalty.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 185, pp. 102-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 129.

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Sept. 11.* **359**. To Munnī Bēgam. Has received her letter complaining of the Governor's not writing to her more frequently. Replies that as he is constantly being informed of her welfare from various sources, he does not send her letters more frequently; otherwise his regard for her is as great as before.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 10, p. 4. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 117, p. 221. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 83.

Sept. 13. **360**. From the *Ṣūbahdār* of Cuttack. Acknowledges receipt of the Governor's letter to Sambhājī Ganēsh, the late *Ṣūbahdār*, desiring that the *Zamīndār* of Shahbandar may be directed not to demand duties on grain from the Company's people in the *parganah* Napochaur. Replies that the *'Āmil* and *Vakīl* of Shahbandar deny the charge laid against them. Has written to them, however, to procure detailed intelligence of the affairs. Will hereafter inform the Governor of the result.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 186, p. 103. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 148.

Sept. 14. **361**. To 'Abdu'llah Khān, *Faujdār* of Balasore. Intimates that Mr Becher is proceeding to Balasore to recover his health, and requests the Khān to show that gentleman proper attention.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 11, p. 4. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 118, p. 221. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 75.

Sept. 15. **362**. From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends Rs 1,70,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 187, p. 103. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 142.

Sept. 15. **363**. From the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 188, p. 103. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

Sept. 15. **364**. From the King. Intimates that he has already sent the Governor several *shuqqahs* regarding Munīru'd-Daulah, and requests His Excellency to send him immediately from Calcutta to Allahabad.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 189, p. 103. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 122.

Sept. 15. **365**. To Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. Has received his letter intimating the death of his father, Balvant Singh; and soliciting the protection of the English. In consideration of the friendship that subsisted between Balvant Singh and the English, the writer has sent a letter to the Vazīr requesting him to confer upon the addressee the *zamīndārī* of Balvant Singh. Will write more fully when a reply is received from the Vazīr. Shaikh 'Alī Naqī has arrived here with Balvant Singh's letters. Refers the addressee to the Shaikh for particulars.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 12, pp. 4, 5. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 119, p. 221. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 76.

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Sept. 16.* **366**. To Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Has received his letter intimating the termination of the auspicious *Puniā*, and enclosing a *nazr* on the occasion. Offers thanks and congratulations.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 13, p. 5. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 120, p. 221. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 94.

Sept. 16.* **367**. To the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 14, p. 5. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 120, p. 221. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 74.

Sept. 17. **368**. From Sayyid Muhammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Kalpi. Has received the Governor's letter regarding the ships of the Dutch Company. Replies that ill-health has obliged him to return to Murshidabad for his cure; but that he has sent the letter to his *Nāib* who will act according to the instructions contained therein.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 190, p. 103. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 148.

Sept. 17. **369**. *Parvānah* granted to Father Kabshain [?]. Be it known to the *zamīndārs, qānūngōs,* and *'āmils* of the districts under the Company's rule that Father Kabshain has the Company's permission to act as Padre in those districts. Let no one obstruct him in the discharge of his duties.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 15, p. 5.

Sept. 18. **370**. From the King. Has already replied to the Governor's letter. With regard to His Excellency's saying that he has heard that influenced by the insinuations of artful and designing men, His Majesty intends moving to the capital to join the Mahratta *sardārs*, replies that such an idea never entered nor will ever enter His Majesty's mind, and that it is astonishing how a man of understanding and penetration like the Governor could believe the story. By the blessing of God, His Majesty himself is master of the country, and who is this race of the Mahrattas and what reputation and credit have they that His Majesty should consent to join hands with them? When the English *sardārs* and the Vazīr as well as other *umarā* are sincere in their loyalty to the Moghal throne, and when he has the favour of the Almighty for his support, what need has he of the Mahrattas? Approves of the Governor's writing to the Vazīr to assist the Rohillas in driving away the Mahrattas. Is himself desirous of helping the Rohillas whose *vakīls* are at present at Allahabad. Requests the Governor to send the promised battalions without delay and to write to the Vazīr to join His Majesty in order that he may march at the head of all these troops to the capital and exterminate the Mahrattas. The person who has told the Governor that His Majesty has entered into an alliance with them is a great liar. Declares emphatically that there is not a grain of truth in the story.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 191, pp. 104-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 122.

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Sept. 18. **371.** *Dastak* granted to Fazl 'Alī Khān. Two boats laden with the under-mentioned goods for His Majesty are going from Calcutta to Allahabad in charge of Fazl Alī Khān and five others. The *rāhdārs* and *guzarbāns* are on no account to demand duties from them. *List of the goods* :—

Bags containing clothes	4
Bags containing cloth	6
Wollen cloth	4 pieces.
Miyānahs	2
Lead	5 maunds.
Betel-nut	1 maund.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 16, p. 5.

Sept. 18. **372.** To Muhammad Rizā Khān. As the office of Resident at Murshidabad is of great importance and as the work there is so heavy that it has impaired the health of every gentleman who has held that office, the Company have thought it advisable to entrust the duties and functions of the Resident to a board of four gentlemen. Accordingly 'Izzatu'd-Daulah Mr Becher, Mr Reade, Mr Lawrell and Mr Graham Babar Jang have been appointed members of the Board and will shortly arrive at Murshidabad. The instructions that have been issued to them are as follows. First, they should inquire into the state of the revenues of all the districts, and ascertain what is paid by the ryots now and what was paid by them formerly. Secondly, the management of all affairs relating to the *Dīvānī* will belong to them, but no orders will be issued unless they are signed and sealed by the Khān. Thirdly, the members of the Board will have to consult the Khān regarding the appointment of officials and all other affairs. The Khān is desired to give them his sincere opinion on all matters. Has already stated that all papers will bear the signature and seal of the Khān, but thinks it necessary to mention that as he is occupying the office of *Nāib Dīvān* of Bengal through the Company's favour, he should not sign any orders touching the Company's interests without the approval and consent of the members of the Board. As the Khān has been serving the Company faithfully and zealously so long, the writer does not doubt that he will use his best endeavours to carry out the wishes of the writer, the Council and the members of the Board. Mr Reade, a member of the Board, left Calcutta for Murshidabad on the 27th *Jumādā* II. Desires the Khān to come down to Daudpur to meet him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 17, pp. 5, 6. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 122, pp. 221-3. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 81.

Sept. 18. **373.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has received his letter intimating the death of Balvant Singh, Raja of Benares. Expresses concern at the event, and desires the addressee always to send news of that part of the country.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 18, p. 7. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 123, p. 224. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 85.

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Sept. 20. **374.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends Rs 2,15,521 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 192, p. 105. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 142.

Sept. 20. **375.** From the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 193, p. 105. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

Sept. 20.* **376.** To the Vazīr. When Captain Harper informed the Committee that a person who passes himself off as a *vakīl* of the English, has gone to the Mahratta camp, the writer immediately sent the Captain a letter desiring him to assure the addressee that that person was not a *vakīl* of the English, but an imposter. Some time ago when the Mahrattas were laying waste the country of the Jāṭs, and all the *sardārs* of Hindustan were anxious to know the future plans of the Mahrattas, the writer in a letter directed Colonel Galliez and Captain Brooke to procure intelligence of the Mahratta camp by every means in their power. Captain Brooke accordingly sent a *harkārah* to the Mahratta camp for the purpose. This is the person who has declared himself to be a *vakīl* of the English. Assures the addressee that he is not a *vakīl* but a *harkārah*, and that the idea of sending a *vakīl* to the Mahratta never occurred to the writer. If it had, he would have first written to the addressee about it.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 19, p. 7. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 124, pp. 224-5. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 91.

Sept. 21. **377.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has already sent an account of the death of Raja Balvant Singh. He was steadfast in loyalty to the Company and readily obeyed all orders that tended to the advantage of the *Sarkār*. The sole object of Lord Clive in concluding the treaty which he did between the Vazīr and Balvant Singh was to place his *zamīndārī* under the Company's protection, in order that, since the boundaries of Behar and Benares are contiguous, it may prove serviceable to the English in times of need. Hopes that the Governor will carry on Lord Clive's policy regarding Benares, and grant protection to Chait Singh, son of the deceased Raja. Assures His Excellency that Chait Singh will follow in his father's footsteps and be firm in loyalty to the Company. Being a sincere well-wisher of it, the writer has represented this matter to the Governor.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 194, pp. 105-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 137.

Sept. 22. **378.** From the *Faujdār* of Balasore. Has received the Governor's letter desiring him to show proper attention to Mr Becher. Assures His Excellency that he will do his best to give satisfaction to that gentleman, and through him to His Excellency.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 195, p. 106. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 116.

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Sept. 22. **379**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Sends a present of rose-plants.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 196, p. 106. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 137.

Sept. 23. **380**. From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a *qisṭ* of Rs 1,40,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 197, p. 106. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 143.

Sept. 23. **381**. From the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 198, p. 106. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

Sept. 23.* **382**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received his letter forwarding 225 rose-plants. These have been received undamaged and planted in the Government garden. Is pleased to learn that they will blossom this year.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 26, p. 9. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 125, p. 225. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 86.

Sept. 25. **383**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Some time ago the writer forwarded to the Governor, through Mr Alexander, two plans, one for a triennial and the other for an annual *band-o-bast*, but has not yet received a reply. Requests that he may be speedily informed of the Governor's decision in the matter, lest a delay may prove detrimental to the collections.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 199, p. 106. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 137.

Sept. 25. **384**. To Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Acknowledges the receipt of a *qisṭ* of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 126, p. 225. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 94.

Sept. 25. **385**. To the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 127, p. 225. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 74.

Sept. 26. **386**. From the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Begs the Governor to write letters more frequently.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 200, p. 106. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 129.

Sept. 27. **387**. From Mādhū Rāo Pēshwā. Notwithstanding the friendship that has subsisted so long between the English and the Mahrattas, the writer has not yet had the pleasure of receiving even 'two lines' from the Governor. This is against the rules of true friendship. However, since the friendship between them is sincere, it does not require the aid of forms and formalities. At present the writer has dispatched Rām Chandar Ganēsh with a large force to settle the affairs of Hindustan, and directed him to execute the Governor's orders in connection with the disturbances that are going on there. Has also dispatched Rāo Harī Amānjī Pandit to Calcutta to have an interview with the Governor and learn His Excellency's views. Hopes that His Excellency will favour the writer with friendly letters.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 201, p. 107. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 130.

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Sept. 27. **388**. From Rām Chandar Ganēsh, a Mahratta chief. The same as the foregoing with the addition that he has sent a few trifles to the Governor as a token of friendship.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 202, p. 107. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 144.

Sept. 27. **389**. From Munnī Bēgam. Offers compliments.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 203, p. 107. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 128.

Sept. 27.* **390**. To the Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Acknowledges the receipt of his letter and hopes to hear frequently from him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 23, pp. 8, 9. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 128, p. 225. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 82.

Sept. 29. **391**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the Governor's letter on the subject of the demands of the *zamīndārs* and *'āmils*. Mr Becher has informed the writer of the principles of the new scheme. That gentleman has not yet received a letter from the Committee on the subject. When he does, he will inform the writer of the details also. Assures the Governor in a lengthy statement that he will do his best to make the scheme a success.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 204, pp. 107-8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 126.

Sept. 29. **392**. From Beu [Babbū] Bēgam. Offers compliments.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 205, p. 108. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 113.

Sept. 30. **393**. From the King. Some time ago the Governor represented to His Majesty that no reliance should be placed on the Mahrattas, but that there was no harm in entering into an alliance with the Rohillas. As His Majesty regards the Governor's representations as solely calculated for the advantage and prosperity of the Moghal throne, he decided to assist the Rohillas and demanded a treaty from them through their *vakīl* who is staying at the Court. They have accordingly sent a treaty and requested one in return. A treaty has in consequence been drafted and sent to the Vazīr together with the treaty received from the Rohillas. The treaties have also been shown to Colonel Galliez. On receipt of a reply from the Vazīr a formal treaty will be prepared and sent to the Rohillas. Now that the rains are over, His Majesty hopes that the Governor will send the promised battalions with the utmost expedition and write an urgent letter to Colonel Galliez to be ready to perform the duties of loyalty and allegiance to His Majesty's sacred throne. Has, in compliance with the Governor's request, delivered Najaf Khān receipts for two years' accounts which amount to 3 *lākhs* of rupees.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 206, pp. 109-10. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 122-3.

Sept. 30. **394**.† The King to the Vazīr. Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān has, through 'Abd'ullah Khān, sent an *'arẓī* expressing loyalty and devotion to His Majesty. He has also sent through the same person a treaty, and requested His Majesty to send one in return. His Majesty had hoped that the addressee would come to Allahabad on the occasion of the *'Īd* and advise His Majesty regarding the treaty and other affairs in a

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† This letter was forwarded to the Governor by Colonel Galliez.

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personal interview. But since the addressee has been prevented from coming to Allahabad, His Majesty sends him, through 'Abdu'llah Khān, the treaty received from Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān together with a draft of a treaty which His Majesty proposes to send to that Rohilla chief. 'Abdu'llah Khān will also communicate to the addressee many particulars verbally. Desires him, after carefully perusing and considering the treaties, to return them to His Majesty. The treaty which will be sent on His Majesty's behalf to Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān will be as amended by the addressee. Desires him also to show every civility to 'Abdu'llah Khān who is an old and sincere well-wisher of the house of Tīmūr.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 207, pp. 110-11. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 149.

Sept. 30. **395.** *Treaty sent to His Majesty by Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān on behalf of the Rohilla chiefs. 'We, His Majesty's servants and well-wishers, are from our hearts ready in the observance of the duties of loyalty to His Majesty, the King of the world. His friends are our friends and his enemies our enemies. Whenever His Majesty proposes to settle the affairs of the Empire and sets out for the chastisement of the enemies of his religion and prosperity, we will repair to his victorious standards and manifest the duties of loyalty. We swear by God, His Prophet and the Qurān that we will show no backwardness nor hesitation in the undertaking. We flatter ourselves that His Majesty will show us favour and will not pay attention to the representations of others where we are concerned.'

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 208, p. 111. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 117.

Sept. 30. **396.** *Treaty which the King proposed to send to the Rohilla chiefs. 'His fortunate and propitious Majesty will always exert himself to assist and support the Mussalman chiefs who are from their hearts desirous of the advancement of the Moghal Empire. More particularly will he support and assist his sincere well-wisher, the pillar of the Empire, Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān. His friends are His Majesty's friends and his enemies His Majesty's enemies. His Majesty will show favour to him on condition that he will be firm in observing the duties of loyalty and allegiance to His Majesty's sublime *Sarkār*. His Majesty calls God, His Prophet and the Qurān to witness that there shall be no variation in this.'

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 209, p. 112. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 123.

Sept. 30.† **397.** To Munnī Bēgam. Acknowledges the receipt of her letter and hopes to hear frequently from her.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 25, p. 9. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 129, p. 226. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 83.

Sept. 30.† **398.** To Babbū Bēgam. Acknowledges the receipt of her letter and hopes to hear frequently from her.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 24, p. 9. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 130, p. 226. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 73.

* It was forwarded to the Governor by Colonel Galliez.
† Oct. 2 according to the volume of copies.

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Oct. 1. **399**. From the King. Has received the Governor's letter of the 11th August. Expresses pleasure at the fact that both the Governor and the Vazīr are firm in loyalty to His Majesty and ready to assist him in settling the affairs of the Empire. Hopes that by their assistance and that of the Almighty the country will be cleared of the perfidious Mahrattas who have been the enemies of the Moghal Empire since its establishment, so that not a trace of them will be left behind, and the inhabitants of Hindustan will in consequence sing His Majesty's praises and offer up prayers for the prosperity of his sacred throne. Has already informed the Governor that in pursuance of his advice, His Majesty has determined to assist the Rohillas who have sent him a treaty and demanded one from him in return, and that he has sent both the treaties to the Vazīr for his approval. At present His Majesty desires the Governor to send the promised battalions with the utmost expedition and to write to Colonel Gailliez to be ready to march with His Majesty's victorious standards. Although the Mahrattas have by ravages and devastations gained a footing in the country of the Jāṭs, yet it would not be difficult to drive them away provided His Majesty were assisted by the Vazīr and the English. Observes that there are no difficulties in the world that cannot be overcome by men of resolution. By the blessing of God all those who are ready to give up their lives in the service of the Moghal Empire, will receive their reward. Now that the rains are over, the Mahrattas will be on the move once more, and if they proceed towards Kora, His Majesty will be greatly perplexed. Requests the Governor therefore to dispatch the promised battalions immediately to Allahabad in order that His Majesty may be ready to meet the Mahrattas before they reach the frontiers of Kora.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 210, pp. 112-13. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 123.

Oct. 1. **400**. From the King. Has received the Governor's letter commending Najaf Khān to His Majesty, and requesting him not to deduct the pay of his *risālah* from his allowance. Complies with the Governor's request, and says that in future His Majesty himself will provide for the Khān's *risālah* and that its pay will be the first charge on the Bengal tribute.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 211, pp. 113-14. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 123.

Oct. 2. **401**. To the King. Mīr Fazl 'Alī Khān who came here with *khal'ats* for Munīru'd-Daulah, having executed his commission, now returns to His Majesty's enlightened Presence. Has charged him to tell His Majesty that in consequence of the Royal mandates and the many letters from the Vazīr, His Majesty's old and faithful minister Munīru'd-Daulah will set out from Calcutta in five or six days. Assures His Majesty that he will serve him faithfully and zealously.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 20, pp. 7, 8. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 131, p. 226. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 78.

Oct. 2. **402**. To the Vazīr. To the same effect as the foregoing with the addition that Munīru'd-Daulah will always be grateful to the

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addressee for interceding for him with His Majesty and bringing about his recall to the Court.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 21, p. 8. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 132, pp. 226-7. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 91.

Oct. 2. **403.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Najaf Khān, *Faujdār* of Kora, received from His Majesty a bill for Rs 60,000 on the Bengal tribute and sent it to Calcutta through Mirzā Ābdu'r-Raḥīm. As the writer is unable to pay the bill, he desires the addressee and Mr Reade to do so at their earliest convenience.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 22, p. 8.

Oct. 3. **404.** From Najaf Khān, *Faujdār* of Kora. A bill for the sum of 1 *lākh* of rupees was granted by His Majesty to him on account of the pay of his troops. As he needed money urgently, he borrowed that amount from the merchants and sent the bill to the Governor through Captain Brooke. Understands that the *mutaṣaddīs* of Bengal say that they will pay the bill after the balances due to His Majesty have been discharged. Represents that this will cause a considerable delay in the payment of his bill. Requests the Governor to issue peremptory orders to the *mutaṣaddīs* to regard his bill as the first charge on the Bengal tribute.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 212, pp. 114-15. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 132.

Oct. 4. **405.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the Governor's letter regarding the appointment of a council at the *Darbār*. Assures the Governor that he is ready to carry out His Excellency's orders on the subject, and will offer such advice to the gentlemen of the council as will tend to the advantage of the country and the happiness of its inhabitants.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 213, p. 115. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 126.

Oct. 4.* **406.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Sōbhā Rām Pālit and Ghanshām Sarkār have presented to the writer an *'arẓī* regarding the balance of the advances made on salt in the *parganah* Mahishadal. Encloses the *'arẓī* together with the accounts. Desires the Khān to do his best to realise the balance.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 27, p. 9. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 133, p. 227. Abs. I., 1766-71, pp. 81-2.

Oct. 4. **407.** *Dastak.* Be it known to the *rāhdārs, guzarbāns, chaukīdārs* etc. of Bengal and Behar that Muḥammad Raḥīm Bēg, a servant of Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah Riẓā Qulī Khān Bahādur Nādir Jang, is proceeding from Calcutta to Allahabad with two boats laden with broadcloth, silk and other goods which are intended for His Majesty. Let no one demand duties from him or stop him on the way.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 28, pp. 9, 10.

Oct. 8.† **408.** To the King. His Majesty's old and faithful servant Munīru'd-Daulah has, in obedience to his commands, left Calcutta

* Oct. 3 according to the volume of copies.
† Oct. 11 according to the volume of copies.

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and will shortly have the honour of kissing the Royal threshold. The thought of the many favours which His Majesty has done him, is engraved on his heart; and he will therefore devote himself heart and soul to His Majesty's service. The friendship between him and the English *sardārs* is so sincere that his honour and interest are the same as those of the English. Consequently the favours which His Majesty will show to him will be regarded by them as if they were shown to themselves. Munīru'd-Daulah's long residence in Calcutta has enabled him to learn thoroughly the sentiments of the English *sardārs*. Those sentiments he will communicate verbally to His Majesty. Considers it therefore unnecessary to express them now. Is sure that through the wisdom and experience of Munīru'd-Daulah His Majesty's affairs will be satisfactorily settled.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 30, p. 10. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no ***134****, pp. 227-8. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 78.*

Oct. 8.* **409**. To the Vazīr. Intimates that Munīru'd-Daulah has set out for Allahabad. Hopes that the friendship between him and the addressee will always increase and that by their joint efforts the Royal affairs will be satisfactorily settled. Hopes also that the addressse will respect his old age and treat him with regard and consideration. This will be regarded as a proof of the addressee's readiness to carry out the wishes of the English *sardārs* and will greatly please the writer.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 31, p. 11. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 135, pp. 228-9. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 91.

Oct. 8.* **410**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Intimates that Munīru'd-Daulah is proceeding from Calcutta to Allahabad, and desires the Khān, as before, to show him every mark of civility and to supply him with boats and all other necessaries.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 33, p. 11. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 136, p. 229. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 81.

Oct. 8.* **411**. To Raja Shitab Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 33, p. 11. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 137, p. 229. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 86.

Oct. 8.* **412**. To Raja Shitab Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Some time ago when Mr Verelst was Governor of Bengal, he wrote to the addressee regarding the *jāgīr* of Dayā Rām Paṇḍit. Cannot recollect at present for what reason the latter was not allowed to enter upon the *jāgīr*, although he had obtained *sanads* from the King, the Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah and the English Company. As Munīru'd-Daulah is

* Oct. 11 according to the volume of copies.

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anxious to have the matter settled before he leaves Calcutta, the writer has addressed Mr Alexander on the subject. Refers the addressee to that gentleman for particulars, and desires him to state clearly why the said Pandit was not allowed to take possession of the *jāgīr*.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 34, pp. 11, 12. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 138, pp. 229-30. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 86.

Oct. 10. **413**. From the Vazīr. Has received the Governor's letter advising him to assist the Rohillas in driving away the Mahrattas. Replies as follows. Even before the commencement of hostilities he repeatedly warned the different *sardārs* of Hindustan of the Mahratta danger, but being deficient in foresight, they did not listen to him. Now that things have come to such a pass, each is exerting himself to provide for his own safety. At all events, the writer is, for the sake of the country and the Mussalman religion, ready to assist the Rohillas. But he and the Rohillas cannot effect much unless they are supported by the English. Is anxious to know if the Governor is prepared to send some troops to assist them. If he is, the writer will be glad to help the Rohillas, if not, he will have only his own safety to provide for. Requests the Governor to reply to this letter soon as there is no time to be lost.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 214, pp. 116-17. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 147.

Oct. 11. **414**. To Muḥammad Riẕā K͟hān. Has been informed that a small sum is still due to the *sāhūkārs* on account of the *tank͟hwāh* which they received from His Majesty through Munīru'd-Daulah. Desires the K͟hān to pay that sum to the latter at Murshidabad. Has written also to Mr Reade to the same effect.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 32, p. 11.

Oct. 12. **415**. To Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. It is for more than a month that negotiations have been in progress between the Raja and Elich K͟hān, the Vazīr's *vakīl*, but the Raja has not written about them, though others have done so. This is very strange. Tells him that this want of confidence in the English *sardārs* will by no means conduce to his prosperity. Nor is it a lesson which he could have learnt from his deceased father who placed the friendship of the English *sardārs* above everything else, and consulted them in all matters touching his welfare and interest. Is willing to ascribe his present attitude to his youth and inexperience and does not doubt that in future he will mend his ways and like his father cultivate the friendship of the English *sardārs*. Does not know in what state the finances of the late Raja were at the time of his death. Consequently he is unable to advise the addressee on the subject of his negotiations with the Vazīr. Has only to observe that if the late Raja's fortune amounted to half of what people imagine it to be, his paying a trifling sum of money will not inconvenience him. It would be to his interest soon to come to terms with the Vazīr and

* Oct. 13 according to the volume of copies.

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receive from him the customary *khal'at*. As soon as this affair is settled he should endeavour to promote the happiness of the inhabitants of his *zamīndārī* and to pay the Vazīr's dues punctually. This will gain for him not only His Excellency's favour, but the support and friendship of the English *sardārs* as well. As it is their principle that when they form friendship with a person, they continue to befriend his descendants from generation to generation, so their attitude towards the addressee will not change, unless and until he deviates from the path trodden by his father. Desires him to regard the writer as greatly interested in his welfare and to send letters frequently.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 35, pp. 12, 13. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 139, pp. 230-1. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 73.

Oct. 14. **416**. From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends Rs 1,60,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 215, p. 117. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 143.

Oct. 14. **417**. From the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 216, p. 117. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

Oct. 15.* **418**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Intimates that Rām Sundar Rāy, a *gumāshtah* of Mr Grant's, has absconded with a large sum of money belonging to that gentleman, and desires the Khān to order the officials throughout the province to make a diligent search for the *gumāshtah*, and to send him when caught to Calcutta without delay. Desires also that everywhere people may be warned by beat of drum not to conceal the culprit.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 36, p. 13. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 140, p. 231 Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 81.

Oct. 15.* **419**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 36, p. 13. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 141, p. 231. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 86.

Oct. 15.* **420**. To Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. To the same effect.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 36, p. 13. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 142, p. 231. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 85.

Oct. 17. **421**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Will, in accordance with the Governor's desire, show proper attention to Munīru'd-Daulah on his arrival at the city, and supply him with everything that he may require for his journey.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 217, p. 117. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 126.

* Oct. 18 according to the volume of copies.

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Oct. 18.* **422**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Asadu'l-lah Khān on whom an annual salary of Rs 30,000 was settled by the Nawab Ṣābit Jang [Lord Clive], has obtained three years' leave and is returning to his native country. Desires that during the period his salary may be paid as formerly to his *vakīl*.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 37, p. 13. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 143, p. 232. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 86.

Oct. 21. **423**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Acknowledges the receipt of the Governor's letter regarding Mr Grant's *banyā*, and says that he has promulgated the strictest orders throughout the province for the apprehension of the *banyā*. On his being caught, he will be sent to Calcutta under a guard. Any person who is found to have sheltered him, will likewise be sent to Calcutta.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 218, p. 117. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 127.

Oct. 22. **424**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has already written to the Governor about Chait Singh, son of the deceased Raja Balvant Singh. News has just arrived that the question of the *nazrānah* has been settled at a conference held at Benares between Ēlich Khān, the Vazīr's *vakīl*, Captain Harper and Raja Chait Singh. According to this settlement, the Raja is to pay a *nazrānah* of 17 *lākhs* of rupees. Ten *lākhs* are to be paid immediately and the remaining 7 *lākhs* at the end of the month of *Kātik*. He is also to pay annually Rs 2,50,000 more than his father. On the Raja's signing the agreement, Captain Harper and Ēlich Khān delivered him the customary *khal'at* and elephant.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 219, p. 118. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 137.

Oct. 23.† **425**. To the Vazīr. Has been informed by Captain Harper that the addressee has, out of his bounty and benevolence, conferred upon Chait Singh the offices and honours of his late father, confirmed him in the *zamīndārī* of Benares and Ghazipur, and sent the Captain to Benares to attend the ceremony of his installation. Thanks the addressee for this fresh token of his friendship and regard for the English *sardārs*, and assures him that his kindness has made such a deep impression on Chait Singh's mind that he will always remain grateful to the addressee and devote himself to his duties to the advantage of the country and the satisfaction of the addressee.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 41, pp. 14, 15. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 144, p. 232. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 91.

Oct. 24. **426**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has received from His Majesty a *shuqqah* regarding the ten *lākhs* of rupees which His Majesty borrowed from the Vazīr and for which he granted His Excellency bills on the Bengal tribute, but which sum has not yet been paid. Encloses the original *shuqqah* and requests that the officials at Murshidabad may be directed to pay that sum to the Vazīr without delay.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 220, pp. 118-19. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 137.

* Oct. 19 according to the volume of copies.
† Oct. 31 according to the volume of copies.

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Oct. 24. **427**. The King to Raja Shitāb Rāy. Some time ago when His Majesty was in great need of money, he borrowed 10 *lākhs* of rupees from the Vazīr and granted him bills for the amount on the Bengal tribute. But up to the present time nothing has been paid to the Vazīr. As the marriage of Āṣafu'd-Daulah, the Vazīr's son, is approaching, His Excellency has repeatedly written to His Majesty to repay the money. Directs the addressee therefore to arrange to pay the said amount to the Vazīr and to send the receipt to the enlightened Presence. In case the addressee is unable to procure the money, His Majesty will send the Vazīr's *vakīl* to the English *sardārs* to realise it.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 221, p. 119. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 123.

Oct. 24. **428**. To Najaf Khān. Has received his several letters regarding the bills he has received from His Majesty. Has also received the bill the Khān has sent through Colonel Gailliez, but it has not yet been paid, as the Khān in his letter has not mentioned the person to whom it is to be paid. Desires the Khān to write soon whether the bill is to be paid at Benares or Murshidabad. Desires him also, after he has received the money, to give the receipt to the Colonel.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 38, pp. 13, 14.

Oct. 27. **429**. From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends Rs 1,60,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 222, p. 119. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 143.

Oct. 27. **430**. From the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 223, p. 119. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

Oct. 27. **431**. To Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Has received Rs 1,60,000 sent by him on account of the Burdwan revenues. Hopes that in future also he will send the *qists* punctually.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 39, p. 14.

Oct. 27. **432**. To Birj Kishōr, *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 40, p. 14.

Oct. 27.* **433**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received his letter intimating that the Vazīr has confirmed Raja Chait Singh in the *zamīndārī* of Benares and Ghazipur and conferred upon him the customary *khal'at*. Has heard about it from Captain Harper also. The news has naturally given the writer great pleasure, since the relations between Chait Singh's father and the English *sardārs* were most friendly.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 42, p. 15. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 145, p. 233. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 86.

* Nov. 3 according to the volume of copies.

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Oct. 28. **434**. From Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Acknowledges the receipt of the Governor's letter desiring him to endeavour to apprehend Rām Sundar Rāy, Mr Grant's *banyā*, and to dispatch him to Calcutta. Has promulgated the strictest orders on the subject throughout the district; but as no one at Hooghly has heard of Rām Sundar Rāy before, the writer requests the Governor to send a man who is acquainted with his family and the place of his birth. This would greatly facilitate his detection and arrest.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 224, p. 119. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 140.

Oct. 30. **435**. From the King. Has repeatedly written to the Governor to send Munīru'd-Daulah to Allahabad, but is at a loss to know why he has not yet been sent. Munīru'd-Daulah's reluctance to come to Allahabad is due perhaps to the fact that His Majesty wrote one or two *shuqqahs* to Raja Shitāb Rāy. Asks the Governor to assure him that the Raja has not supplanted him in the Royal favour, and that they are both equal in His Majesty's sight. In these troublous times when the Mahrattas are creating disturbances in Hindustan and when the conducting of negotiations has assumed great importance, there is no one among the pillars of His Majesty's throne so qualified for that task as Munīru'd-Daulah. Moreover, he is a sincere well-wisher of both His Majesty and the English *sardārs* The sooner, therefore, the Governor sends him to Allahabad, the greater will be His Majesty's pleasure.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 225, p. 120. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 123.

Oct. 30.* **436**. To Munīru'd-Daulah. Is glad to hear of his safe arrival at Murshidabad. Since the addressee's departure from Calcutta, the writer has received a Royal *shuqqah* in which His Majesty has urged the addressee to make all speed to the Court. Desires him therefore to continue his journey with the utmost expedition. This will tend to the satisfaction of both His Majesty and the writer. It is from the addressee alone that he expects to receive a detailed account of the state of affairs at the Royal Court. Hopes that the addressee will not disappoint him in this respect.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 45, p. 16. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 146, p. 233. Abs. I., 1766-71, pp. 82-3.

Oct. 31. **437**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Intimates that he arrived at Murshidabad on 22 October, and will leave for Allahabad in five or six days. After having an interview with His Majesty and the Vazīr, he will write fully regarding the state of affairs at the Court.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 226, p. 121. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 129-30.

Nov. 2.* **438**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Intimates that Rām Sundar, Mr Grant's *gumāshtah*, who had absconded, has arrived at Calcutta.

* Nov. 6 according to the volume of copies.

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Desires the Khān therefore to desist from making any further search for him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 46, p. 16. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 147, p. 234. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 81.

Nov. 2.* **439.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. To the same effect.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 46, p. 16. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 148, p. 234. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 86.

Nov. 2.* **440**. To Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. To the same effect.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 46, p. 16. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 149, p. 234. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 74.

Nov. 3. **441**. To Parat Rām, *Harkārah* at Goalpara. Intimates that Mr Aichison is proceeding to Assam for the purpose of carrying on trade there on behalf of the English *sardārs*. Desires the addressee to afford him every assistance as he did in the case of Mr Robinson.

N.B. A duplicate of this parvānah was sent to the chaukī at Barwa in Assam.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 43, p. 15.

Nov. 3. **442.** To Raja Rām Paṇḍit, *Ṣūbahdār* of Cuttack. Has been informed by Mr Alleyn that several persons belonging to Cuttack refuse to pay him the money which they owe to him. As Mr Alleyn himself is in debt and his creditors are pressing him for their dues, and as he is a servant of the Company's, the addressee is requested to assist him in the realisation of the amount due to him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 44, pp. 15, 16.

Nov. 4. **443**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Munīru'd-Daulah set out for Allahabad on 1 November. In compliance with the Governor's desire, the writer paid him every possible attention during his stay at Murshidabad.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 227, p. 121. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 127.

Nov. 6. **444**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has already transmitted an account of the *band-o-bast* for the year 1177 [*Faṣlī*] which was settled by Mr Alexander and the writer at 39 *lākhs* of rupees. That year having now expired, he now sends an account of the money collected, which including the revenues for the present year, the former balances and the receipts of the advances made to the ryots, amounts to Rs 41,61,701-9-3. The *band-o-bast* for the year 1178 [*Faṣlī*] will be made after the arrival of the gentlemen named in the Governor's letter.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 228, pp. 121-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 137.

* Nov. 6 according to the volume of copies.

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Nov. 6. **445.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẕim* of Behar. Has already written to the Governor that Nēval Singh has agreed to pay 65 *lākhs* of rupees to the Mahrattas. A paper of news dated 7 October has just arrived saying that the Mahratta *sardārs* are about to quit Nēval Singh's country, but that the stipulated sums have not yet been paid to them. Out of the 65 *lākhs*, 6 *lākhs* are to be paid in bills, Rs 50,000 in specie and 3 *lākhs* in bonds under the seal and signature of Najību'd-Daulah [immediately]. Fifteen *lākhs* are to be paid in seven months, Rs 7,50,000 at the end of May and June, and the remaining Rs 32,50,000 at the end of two years. A tract of land yielding a revenue of 20 *lākhs* is to be given to Ranjīt Singh. The Mahratta *sardārs* have not yet issued orders for quitting the country. Another paper of news dated 10 October says that every thing has been settled and that the Mahrattas are turning their attention to the country of the Afghāns.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 229, p. 122. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 137.

Nov. 7. **446.** From Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. Has received the Governor's letter saying that His Excellency has written to the Vazīr in the writer's favour. Offers thanks and says that the Vazīr was at first resolved to visit Benares and had pitched his tents on the road to this place, when Captain Harper on receipt of the Governor's letter, asked the Vazīr to postpone his visit, came himself to Benares, and settled every matter to the satisfaction of both the writer and the Vazīr. It is evident to the world that the English *sardārs* support their adherents on every occasion and use their best endeavours for the maintenance of their honour and reputation. In the present case, Captain Harper, who is endowed with much wisdom and understanding, has strictly followed that noble principle and spared no pains to support the honour and reputation of the writer and to satisfy the Vazīr as well. For this favour, the writer's gratitude to the English *sardārs* is so great that if every hair of his head were a tongue, even then it would be impossible for him to express it. May the Almighty preserve the power of the English *sardārs*!

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 230, pp. 122-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 114.

Nov. 7. **447.** From Najaf Khān. It is long since he was favoured with the Governor's letter, though he is ever anxious to hear the news of His Excellency's welfare. As the writer considers himself an adherent of the English Company, he has continually been informing the Governor of his situation. Only God knows the distress he has been in for the last seven or eight months at the Royal Court. It is evident that had it not been for the friendship of the English *sardārs* for him, it would have been impossible for him to have maintained his position. Being in urgent need of money, he has borrowed from Captain Brook Rs 33,333-5-0 which is the amount of his salary for the two months commencing from 14 *Rabī'* I. Requests the Governor to order the above sum to be paid to the Captain. As the writer's salary for two

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months more falls due on 5 November, he requests the Governor to issue orders for its payment also. Requests further that in future his salary may be paid to him regularly every month.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 231, pp. 123-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 132.

Nov. 7.* **448**. To Mādhū Rāo Pēshwā. Has received his letter desiring to strengthen the bonds of friendship existing between him and the English, and intimating the despatch of Rāo Harī Amānjī for the purpose. It is the principle of the English *sardārs* that when any one proposes to form friendship with them, they listen to him sympathetically. They are particularly desirous of cultivating the friendship of those who are mindful of their welfare. Consequently the writer has listened most carefully to every word uttered by Amānjī and has made himself acquainted with all particulars. Now that Amānjī has accomplished the purpose of his mission, the writer has given him leave to depart. The addressee will learn from him how anxious the English *sardārs* are to promote the welfare of the people of God and to maintain peace and tranquillity in the Empire; and how ready they are to strengthen the bonds of friendship existing between them and the addressee. By the blessing of God they have never wilfully disturbed the peace of the Empire, nor have they ever drawn the sword except to defend their friends. They recommend this policy of moderation to their friends as well as their foes in the hope that it may bring happiness to Hindustan who, owing to continuous wars, has 'pain in her heart and a thorn in her side'. Hopes that the addressee will send letters frequently, seeing that a personal interview between him and the writer cannot easily take place owing to the great distance [between Calcutta and Poona].

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 48, pp. 16, 17. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 150, pp. 234-5. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 89.

Nov. 7.* **449**. To Rām Chandar Ganēsh. To the same effect as the foregoing adding that he has sent the addressee, through Rāo Harī Amānjī, the following articles :—

Watch studded with diamonds and emeralds	1
Jasper cases for attar	2
Jasper casket	1
Snuff box	1
Pistols of rare quality	4
Telescopes	2
Red satin	2 pieces.
English cloth flowered and woven with gold thread	1 piece.
China silk flowered and of green colour	1 „

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Broadcloth red and of fine texture	1 piece.
Dacca muslin of rare quality	10 pieces.

Cop. I., 1770-2, nos 49 and 50, pp. 17, 18. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 151, pp. 235-6. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 89.

Nov. 8. **450.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a *qist* of Rs 1,60,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 232, p. 124. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 143.

Nov. 8. **451.** From the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 233, p. 124. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

Nov. 10. **452.** From Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. Has received the Governor's letter complaining of the writer's silence on the subject of his negotiations with the Vazīr. Replies as follows. When his late father was on his death bed, he told the writer that he owed his *zamīndārī* solely to the favour of the English *sardārs* and exhorted him always to be ready in the execution of their orders. Considering this fact and the fact that the English *sardārs* are favourably disposed towards the writer, why should he conceal the secrets of his heart from the Governor? The truth is that during a whole month while Ēlich Khān resided at Benares, nothing of any importance was settled; consequently the writer did not send any letters to the Governor. But when Captain Harper arrived here in accordance with the Governor's directions and adjusted matters to the satisfaction of both the Vazīr and the writer, so that the latter was invested with the customary *khal'at* of his office, he transmitted at once an *'arzī* to the Governor. He also wrote to Shaikh 'Alī Naqī, his *vakīl* at Calcutta, setting forth the details of the affair and directed him to lay them before His Excellency. Has been raised from the dust by the Governor and will therefore be ever ready to carry out his orders. Will also pay the stipulated sum of money to the Vazīr regularly and punctually.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 234, pp. 125-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 114.

Nov. 10.* **453.** To Muhammad Rizā Khān. Intimates the departure of Rāo Harī Amānjī, *vakīl* of Mādhū Rāo Pēshwā, from Calcutta. Desires the addressee to afford him every assistance on his arrival [at Murshidabad].

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 47, p. 16. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 152, p. 236. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 81.

Nov. 10.* **454.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 47, p. 16. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 153, p. 236. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 86.

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Nov. 12. **455.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Will, in compliance with the Governor's wishes, show proper attention to Munīru'd-Daulah on his arrival at Patna, and supply him with all he needs.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 235, p. 126. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 137.

Nov. 13. **456.** From Munnī Bēgam. Offers compliments.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 236, p. 126. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 128.

Nov. 13.* **457.** To Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Has received his letter intimating the despatch of Rs 1,60,000 on account of a *qisṭ* of the Burdwan revenues. Desires him to send his future *qisṭs* also punctually.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 53, p. 18. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 154, p. 236. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 94.

Nov. 13.* **458.** To [Birj Kishōr,] the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 54, p. 18. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 155, p. 236. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 18.

Nov. 14. **459.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received the Governor's letter regarding Mr Grant's *banyā*. Replies that a diligent search will be made for the man throughout the *ṣūbah* of Behar, and upon his being caught, he will be sent under a guard to Calcutta.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 237, pp. 126-7. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 137.

Nov. 14. **460.** To the *rāhdārs*, *guzarbāns* and *chaukīdārs* of the territory extending from Calcutta to Murshidabad. Rāo Harī Amānjī Panḍit is going to that part of the country with two boats—one carrying him and the other his personal goods. Enjoins them not to molest him in any way, but to conduct him safe through their respective districts.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 51, p. 18.

Nov. 14. **461.** *Parvānah* issued to the *gumāshtahs* of *faujdārs*, *'āmils* and *zamīndārs* of Backergunge. Intimates that Messrs Lacam and Hancock are going to that part of the country to collect oyster and snail shells for the preparation of lime. Enjoins the addressees not to molest them in any way, so that they may carry on their business with their mind at rest.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 52, p. 18.

Nov. 16. **462.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a *qisṭ* of Rs 1,50,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 238, p. 127. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 143.

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Nov. 16. **463.** From the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 239, p. 127. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

Nov. 16.* **464.** To Muhammad Rizā Khān. Intimates that Rāo Harī Amānjī Pandit, *vakīl* of Mādhū Rāo Pēshwā, has set out from Calcutta for Murshidabad. Desires the addressee to procure one elephant and five ponies for Rām Chandar Ganēsh and to deliver them to the *vakīl* on his arrival at that city. Has also written in detail in English to Nusratu'd-Daulah Bahrām Jang [Mr Becher] on the subject.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 56, p. 19. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 156, p. 236. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 81.

Nov. 18. **465.** To the *'Āmil* of Khulna. Has been informed that one Mr Hardwick of the addressee's district has engaged sepoys to conduct his business. The addressee is directed to enquire and report as to their number.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 55, p. 19.

Nov. 19.† **466.** To the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received no letter from the addressee for a long time, although the writer's heart is always anxious to hear news of his welfare. States that Rāo Harī Amānjī Pandit had brought letters from the Mahratta *sardārs* in order to confirm and establish the ties of friendship subsisting between them and the English *sardārs*. He is now returning to his master Mādhū Rāo, with the writer's replies. Considering that the knowledge of each other's negotiations ever tended to the advantage and well-being of both the *sarkārs*, encloses the letters of Mādhū Rāo and Rāo Rām Chandar Ganēsh together with his (the writer's) replies for the addressee to peruse. The contents of these will make evident to the addressee the sentiments of the writer and those of the English *sardārs* in general. Has, in the course of conferences with the Mahratta *vakīl* during his stay in Calcutta, explained in the strongest terms that the English *sardārs* are peace-loving people, and their characteristic is to conciliate all parties and to seek to promote the ease and tranquillity of the people; that they have never wished to glorify themselves by acquiring the territories of others, or to increase their own wealth at the price of bloodshed and rapine throughout the Empire, and they hope that this plan of moderation may prove an example to the other chiefs and thus relieve Hindustan of destructive wars and once more restore peace and happiness to its provinces; that they are always firm and true to their engagements and consider the happiness of their allies as their own; and that although their principles are founded on peace and their hearts are set upon it, yet they are ever ready to resent any injury or insult inflicted on them or their allies, and to use the power that Heaven has vouch-

* Nov. 19 according to the volume of copies.
† Nov. 21 according to the volume of copies.

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safed them, to defend their country and honour, and to protect those whose firm loyalty has rendered them worthy of the assistance of the English *sardārs*.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 57, pp. 19, 20. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 157, pp. 237-8. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 91.

Nov. 20. **467.** From Jānūji Bhōnsla, Raja of Nagpur. It is nearly five years since Udēpūrī Gusain was sent to Calcutta to settle the question of the Bengal *qists*, but up to this hour there is not the least sign of anything being adjusted. And this notwithstanding the fact that Gōpālpūrī Gusain brought from Calcutta letters and a treaty signed and sealed by the gentlemen of the Council, and notwithstanding the fact that the writer sent in reply letters couched in the most friendly language and calculated to put the friendship between him and the English on a basis as strong as the walls of Alexander. The Governor must be aware that last year the writer was at war with the Deccan *sardārs*. To give a detailed account of the war would be very tedious. It is enough to say that it did not end to the writer's disadvantage in spite of the heavy odds against which he had to contend, and in spite of the fact that he received little support from his friends. At a time like that, the Governor ought to have encouraged and assisted him and made him his life-long friend by winning his gratitude. But the Governor did nothing of the sort. That, however, is past. It is now necessary for the revival of the friendship between the writer and the English, for the advantage of the country and its inhabitants, and for the sake of many other advantages that the Governor should send to Nagpur Udēpūrī Gusain and a plenipotentiary of the Company together with the Bengal *qists* in accordance with the established custom, and with the utmost expedition. Udēpūrī Gusain has for the last five years been praising the English *sardārs* for their uprightness, but they have not as yet given a proof that they possess that quality. As the writer has ample leisure at present, he is firmly resolved to regulate his disordered affairs. Has dispatched Bhagvān Bishnū Rāy to communicate these particulars to Udēpūrī Gusain. Hopes that the Governor will obey the dictates of wisdom and foresight and comply with the writer's demands, otherwise the writer will not easily let go the fruits of twelve years' labour and much bloodshed. He is bound to get what belongs to him by right, aye and much more than that; and the Governor is sure to pay the price of his obstinacy.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 240, pp. 127-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 139.

Nov. 20. **468.** From Lakhmānjī Jāchak, *Qal'ahdār* of Sambalpur. Has not heard from the Governor for a long time. It is now four years since Udēpūrī Gusain came to reside in Bengal. Is anxious to know what can possibly be the cause of his returning to Nagpur. Soon after his departure from Sambalpur, a person named Bishnū arrived here on the part of Raja Jānūjī Bhōnsla to settle the affair [of the *chauth*]. He is now proceeding to Calcutta. Hopes that the Governor will negotiate with him in such a manner as may tend to strengthen the friendship

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existing between Raja Jānūjī and the English. This will be to the advantage of both the parties.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 241, p. 129.

Nov. 23. **469.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. News has arrived to the effect that Najību'd-Daulah died on 31 October.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 242, p. 130. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 137.

Nov. 23. **470.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has already forwarded to the Governor a Royal *shuqqah* which the writer received on the subject of the 10 *lākhs* of rupees to be paid to the Vazīr. Encloses another *shuqqah* which His Majesty has written to the Governor on the same subject. Hopes that the Governor will direct the officials at Murshidabad to pay the above amount to the Vazīr.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 243, p. 130. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 137-8.

Nov. 23. **471.** From the King. The sum of 10 *lākhs* of rupees was borrowed by the *mutaṣaddīs* of the Vazīr from Baij Rāj, a merchant, and paid into the Royal *Sarkār*. Bills were consequently granted to Baij Rāj on the Bengal tribute, and a *parvānah* was addressed to Raja Shitāb Rāy on the subject. Requests that the sum of Rs 1,50,000 may be paid monthly to the *mutaṣaddīs* of the said merchant from 1 *Shavvāl*, 11 *Julūs*, until the whole debt is discharged.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 244, p. 130. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 123.

Nov. 23.* **472.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Acknowledges the receipt of the addressee's letter forwarding a draft of a letter to Rām Chandar Ganēsh for the writer's approval. Returns the draft and says that it has met with the entire approbation of the writer.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 58, p. 20. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 158, p. 238. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 81.

Nov. 24. **473.** From the Vazīr. Has written several letters to the Governor regarding the affairs of this part of the country, but has not for the last four months received a single letter in reply. As the writer does nothing without the Governor's advice, affairs are at a standstill here. Najību'd-Daulah who was a *sardār* of character, sense and much penetration, has died, and the Mahrattas are bent on creating disturbances. The Royal family is at Shahjahanabad, and Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān, the enemy of the throne, is also there in readiness. It would be very difficult to defeat his evil designs. Has informed Captain Harper of the particulars. Serious disturbances are in sight and are fast approaching. No time is to be lost, but the writer is at a loss what to do. It is well known that the Mahrattas and Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān are united and want to make the Shahzādah [Javān Bakht] king. There is therefore much to give one pause and to create uneasiness. Hopes that the Governor

* Nov. 24 according to the volume of copies.

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will consider this an affair of honour and not a trifle, and will speedily send an explicit answer.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 245, p. 131. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 147.

Nov. 26. **474**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the Governor's letter desiring the Khān to supply Rāo Harī Amānjī Paṇḍit, the Mahratta *vakīl*, on his arrival at Murshidabad, with all necessaries. Encloses a copy of a letter the Khān has written to Rām Chandar Ganēsh, and requests the Governor to communicate what he thinks of its contents.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 246, p.132. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 127.

Nov. 26. **475**. Muḥammad Riẓā Khān to Rām Chandar Ganēsh. Has received his letter through Rāo Harī Amānjī Paṇḍit and understood its contents. The Governor also has received, through the same person, the letters of the addressee and Mādhū Rāo Pēshwā, and replied to them. The English gentlemen are always true to their engagements and have the interests of the people of Hindustan at heart. As the addressee also is interested in their welfare, it is certain that he will co-operate with these gentlemen and cultivate their friendship. Requests him to inform Mādhū R o of these particulars.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 247, p. 132. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 127.

Nov. 27. **476**. From Jasārat Khān, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Dacca. Offers compliments.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 248, p. 133. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 117.

Nov. 27. **477**. From Riẓā Qulī Khān, *Dārōghah* of Kalpi. Has arrived at Kalpi and hoisted the King's colours at the *chaukī*.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 249, p. 133. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 144.

Nov. 27.* **478**. To Jasārat Khān, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Dacca. Acknowledges the receipt of the addressee's letter, and requests that he may correspond with the writer regularly.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 59, p. 20. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 159, p. 238. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 76.

Nov. 27.* **479**. To Munnī Bēgam. Acknowledges the receipt of her letter. Hopes to hear frequently from her.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 60, p. 20. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 160, p. 238. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 83.

Nov. 28. **480**. From the King. After repeating the substance of his former letters on the subject of his intended move to Delhi, says that His Majesty has been postponing it for some reason or other. Now that, by the will of the Almighty, Najību'd-Daulah is no more, the affairs of Shahjahanabad are in a deplorable condition, and the Mahrattas and Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān, the traitor, are in its neighbourhood carrying on

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negotiations with [Mīr] Qāsim; consequently His Majesty's sacred heart is in great perplexity. As His Royal Highness the Shahzādah is residing at Shahjahanabad with the Royal family, His Majesty has resolved to set out for that place to bring about the chastisement of the traitor, and to regulate the affairs of the Empire. As His Majesty considers none so sincere in loyalty and attachment to himself as the Governor, he directs His Excellency to despatch some English troops with artillery and other implements of war to Allahabad, and to write to Colonel Gailliez to accompany His Majesty in the expedition. Directs the Governor to write also to the Vazīr to repair to the sacred Presence. Has postponed his departure from Allahabad till he receives a reply from the Governor. If His Majesty's wishes are not complied with, he will set out for the capital himself leaving his family at Allahabad.

PS.—As Najību'd-Daulah is dead, His Majesty has invested Ẓābiṭah Khān with the dress of the office of *Bakhshī* and conferred on him the title of Amīru'l-Umarā. Has despatched Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān to ascertain the sentiments of the Mahrattas; and on his return, full particulars will be communicated to the Governor.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 250, pp. 133-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 123.

Nov. 30. **481.** From Munīru'd-Daulah. Intimates his arrival at Patna.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 251, p. 135. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 130.

Dec. 1. **482.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Forwards an *'arẓī* for transmission to the King. Requests the Governor to obtain for him a customary *sanad* from His Majesty.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 252, pp. 135-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 143.

Dec. 3. **483.** From the King. His Majesty is anxious to hear the news of the welfare of his loyal servant, the Governor. Has borrowed a sum of Rs 2,12,253-3-0 in Murshidabad *sikkah* rupees from the merchants and granted a receipt to them on the Bengal tribute. Desires the Governor to pay the amount of the receipt on presentation.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 253, p. 136. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 123-4.

Dec.* **484.** General Sir Robert Barker to the King. Has to make a short stay at Dinapore on account of some urgent business. Has sent Munīru'd-Daulah on to the Royal Presence. God willing, he will attain the happiness of this world and the next, by having the honour of an audience. Expresses his eagerness to kiss the exalted threshold of His Majesty.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 5,† p. 8.

Dec. 6. **485.** General Sir Robert Barker to Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received his two letters, one at Meenkoot and the other at Monghyr brought by Bhavānī Paṇḍit, explaining certain irregular events that did not accord with their existing friendship. Has viewed the events in

* Date is not given in the volume of copies.
† Letters nos 1-4 of the volume of copies for 1770-1 are entirely worm-eaten.

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the light of the explanation furnished by the Khān. Is glad to learn that the old friendship has again been restored.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 6, p. 8.

Dec. 7. **486.** From Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. Has sent a number of *'arzīs* and a *nazr*. The former have most probably been read by the addressee. The Governor has undoubtedly been informed by Shaikh 'Alī Naqī of all particulars of the bounty of the Vazīr and the English gentlemen by whose favour all affairs of the writer have been brought to a satisfactory state. It is known to the world that through the countenance and favour of the Company, the writer has been raised from the dust and confirmed in his *zamīndārī*. Requests the Governor to confer on him a *khal'at* and to favour him with a treaty under his (the Governor's) English signature and the royal seal and to despatch them both through Shaikh 'Alī Naqī.

PS.—Shaikh 'Alī Naqī, who is with the Governor, will communicate all particulars.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 254, pp. 136-7. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 114.

Dec. 7. **487.** From Raja Sundar Narāyan, *Zamīndār* of Kasijora. Sends a *vakīl* with a *nazr* of one gold mohur and five rupees on the occasion of his appointment to the *zamīndārī* in place of his deceased brother, Raja Rāj Narāyan.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 255, p. 137. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 144.

Dec. 7.* **488.** To Kishn Chand, Raja of Nadia. Has heard with much surprise from Colonel Ironside, who came with a detachment from Krishnagar to Calcutta, that the inhabitants of the villages lying on his route, had all deserted their houses apprehending that violence would be committed by the troops under the Colonel's command. It is a well known fact that the English troops are never guilty of any disturbances on their march. The officers do all they can to prevent any such thing. Holds the Raja responsible if his people have been the victims of panic. Says that Colonel Muir is now on his march to Krishnagar. Desires the Raja to see with his own eyes the discipline of the English troops, and to seek to dispel from the minds of his people such baseless fears.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 64, p. 22. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 161, pp. 238-9. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 87.

Dec. 8. **489.** To the King of Jeddah. States that the arrears [due to the Company] have not been paid, and that much inconvenience has been felt for some years, while trade has suffered considerably. As by the blessing of the Almighty the reins of administration of that country [Jeddah] has now come into the hands of the addressee, he is requested to take steps to have the arrears paid at once. A ship under the command of Captain Nathaniel is going to Jeddah. Desires the addressee to show the Captain every attention. Requests to be always favoured with letters.

Cop. I., 1770-2, nos 61 and 62, pp. 20-2.

* Dec. 12 according to the volume of copies.

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Dec. 8. **490.** General Sir Robert Barker to Raja Chait Singh. Acknowledges the receipt of his letter. States that the writer left Calcutta and has now arrived at Azimabad. Will halt at Dinapore for some time to make some arrangements. Has heard that His Excellency the Vazīr had summoned the Raja to his presence, but he did not go. Says that had the Raja gone to Fyzabad he would have been invested with the office of his father and all affairs would have been satisfactorily settled.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 7, pp. 8-10.

Dec. 9. **491.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a *qist* of Rs 3,00,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 256, p. 137. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 143.

Dec. 9. **492.** From Birj Kishōr Rāy, *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 257, p. 137. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

Dec. 9.* **493.** To Muhammad Rizā Khān. Has learnt from an *'arzī* from Rizā Qulī Khān, *Dārōghah* of Kalpi, that the Captain of a French ship refused to allow his vessel to be searched at the *chaukī*. He would not even allow the officials to come near. Believes that the addressee has also been informed of this affair. Hopes that he will not let the matter to be passed over in silence.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 65, pp. 22-3. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 162, p. 239. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 81.

Dec. 9. **494.** General Sir Robert Barker to Raja Chait Singh. Intimates that Mr Duncan, a dependant of the Company's, is going to Benares and Mirzapore to make arrangements for the proper management of Mr Cox's properties. Desires the Raja to afford Mr Duncan every assistance. A compliance with this request will greatly please the writer.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 8, p. 10.

Dec. 10. **495.** From the King. A duplicate copy of His Majesty's *shuqqah* dated 3 December 1770.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 258, p. 138. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 124.

Dec. 12. **496.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has received the Governor's letter on the subject of Asadu'l-lah Khān's allowance. Will pay the allowance while Asadu'l-lah Khān is absent in his native country for three years, to his *vakīl* as directed by the Governor. Asadu'l-lah Khān set out from Patna for his native country on 8 *Sh'abān*.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 259, p. 138. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 138.

Dec. 12. **497.** To Razīu'd-Dīn Muhammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. States that the term of the *parvānah*, issued last year under the seal of

* Dec. 12 according to the volume of copies.

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Muḥammad Riẓā Khān to the coolies employed to make bricks for the fort at Calcutta, has expired this month. Desires the addressee to issue a fresh *parvānah* to them.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 63, p. 22.

Dec. 12. **498**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Acknowledges the receipt of his letter together with seven *ḍālīs* of oranges sent by him through Raja Kāshī Nāth. Offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 66, p. 23.

Dec. 12. **499**. To Raẓīu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Desires the Khān to issue instructions to all the *mahājans* in his district, who have their goods ready to send them to the *Naul khānah* immediately, calling upon others to get theirs ready for despatch as soon as possible.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 67, p. 23.

Dec. 13. **500.** From Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. A duplicate copy of his letter dated 7 December 1770.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 260, p. 138. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 114.

Dec. 13. **501.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a *qisṭ* of Rs 3,60,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 261, p. 138. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 143.

Dec. 13. **502.** From Birj Kishōr Rāy, *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 262, p. 138. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

Dec. 14.* **503**. To the King. Has been honoured with His Majesty's Royal *shuqqah* conveying the news of the death of his loyal and faithful servant Najību'd Daulah, His Majesty's intention of repairing to the capital and other affairs of that part of the country. As the English *sardārs* at all times have wished to manifest to the world the sincerity of their loyalty and devotion to the sacred throne, they have always, without relaxing their zeal, recommended to His Majesty's august consideration whatever they thought would tend to the welfare of His Majesty and the prosperity of the Empire. They cannot conceal from His Majesty the fact that the present period appears to them to be a very critical one demanding much of His Majesty's attention. It is with great astonishment that the English *sardārs* have heard from various sources that the perfidious Mahrattas intend going to the capital with designs which are destructive of His Majesty's interests and the prosperity of the sacred throne. But, by the blessing of God, the English *sardārs* hope that the Mahrattas will meet with the punishment they deserve as rebels against their sovereign and as disturbers of public peace and tranquillity. His Majesty had repeatedly been pleased to ask the sentiments of his loyal servants, the English *sardārs*, upon his resolution of proceeding to the capital, and they always, taking His Majesty's interests and welfare into consideration

* Dec. 17 according to the volume of copies.

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dissuaded him from so hazardous an enterprise, although Najību'd-Daulah was then alive, whose long and faithful services rendered him worthy of His Majesty's confidence, and who was sincere in his loyalty and attachment to His Majesty's interests. How then can the English *sardārs* think the present period an opportune one for such an undertaking, when His Majesty, by the will of the Almighty, has been deprived of the powerful assistance of Najību'd-Daulah, the faithful servant and devoted adherent of the sacred throne? The English *sardārs* are inclined to think that the gracious bounty of His Majesty in conferring on Ẓābiṭah Khān the honours and titles of his deceased father [Najību'd-Daulah] will have the desired effect of making him abandon the perfidious race of the Mahrattas and working in him a sense of loyalty that will repair the loss His Majesty has sustained in the demise of Najību'd-Daulah; that the Mahrattas and Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān will reap the fruit of their perfidy; and that the time will come when His Majesty's march to the capital will be advantageous to himself and will tend to the prosperity of the Empire. The English *sardārs* cannot advise His Majesty to undertake the expedition on the present occasion, when the Mahrattas and Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān, the avowed enemies of His Majesty, are on the confines of Etawa and Farrukhabad with a force threatening even to devastate the Empire. The English *sardārs* have represented what their loyalty has dictated to them. His Majesty is wise and they need say no more.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 68, pp. 23-4. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 163, pp. 239-41. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 78.

Dec. 14.* **504**. To the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received His Excellency's letter complaining that he has not received any letters from the writer for some time. This has greatly surprised the writer. He wrote to His Excellency four letters in September, three in October and one in November but has not received a single reply. It appears that these letters have miscarried like some of the letters he wrote to Captain Harper. His Excellency justly observes that the sad death of Najību'd-Daulah at a time when the Mahrattas have evil designs in their heads, naturally gives one pause and creates uneasiness. Hopes that a power may yet arise to counteract their schemes which are founded upon principles so destructive of His Majesty's interests and the welfare of the public; but this hope must not cause His Excellency to relax those vigorous measures which he has lately adopted. Prudence requires that for 'our' own safety 'we' should be on 'our' guard. A march of His Excellency's troops to the frontiers of his own country will convince the enemies of Hindustan that His Excellency is not unprepared to repel any hostile designs that may be formed against his country. Should so prudent a step not be sufficient to discourage these faithless people, His Excellency's allies, the English *sardārs*, are at hand to assist. Ever true to their treaties and engagements they will take the wings of the eagle and fly to his succour. His Excellency is aware that the Company's armies are ever kept ready for action, and a few days' notice will set them in motion. Should like to impress on His Excellency the fact that a

* Dec. 17 according to the volume of copies.

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wise man beholds danger while it is at a distance, and takes proper measures to remove it or delay its progress. Has already expressed his sentiments as to the attitude His Excellency should adopt towards the Rohillas. These sentiments have sprung from a deep knowledge of mankind and of the causes which have led to the rise and fall of kingdoms, and if due regard is paid to them the prosperity of His Excellency will be promoted. His Excellency has nothing to apprehend from the Rohillas as they are divided under different heads and probably by diverse interests. The nation to be dreaded is the Mahrattas, if they can once establish themselves on the frontiers of His Excellency's country; but they can do this only by weakening or rather exterminating both the Jāṭs and the Rohillas. Observes that it is manifestly to His Majesty's interest to enter into a treaty, both defensive and offensive, with the Rohillas and the Jāṭs against the Mahrattas. His Excellency has already obtained great renown by defeating the Mahrattas at Panipat. Cannot understand why His Excellency is not taking the lead in defending Hindustan, when he is in possession of better troops more formidable in discipline if not in numbers, than those he possessed at Panipat. Has lately received a *shuqqah* from His Majesty in which he has again repeated his firm intention of removing his Royal standards towards the capital, and has directed the addressee to despatch a force to the Presence to accompany His Majesty on his intended expedition. Although the English *sardārs* are ever ready with their hearts and souls in the duties of loyalty and in the observance of His Majesty's sacred mandates, yet they cannot remain silent upon the present occasion, when events of so critical a nature demand much of His Majesty's attention. Has represented to his sacred Presence in the strongest terms that on an earlier occasion when the English *sardārs* had the honour to offer their opinion upon the subject of His Majesty's move to the capital, they thought such a move too dangerous, although Najību'd-Daulah, who was attached to the interests of His Majesty's sacred throne, was then alive. What reasons can there be for them to change their opinion at a time when His Majesty has been deprived of the assistance and support of so old and faithful a vassal [as Najību'd-Daulah]? Expresses the hope that His Majesty's bounty to Ẓābiṭah Khān may work in him a sense of loyalty which will repair the loss His Majesty has sustained by the death of Najību'd-Daulah; that the Mahrattas by the blessing of God will pay the price of their treachery; and that the time will shortly arrive when His Majesty's march to the capital will tend to his own advantage and the prosperity of the Empire. The English *sardārs* do not think the present period opportune for so great and hazardous an undertaking, when disturbances are rife throughout the Empire, when the perfidious Mahrattas and Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān, the declared enemies of His Majesty, are on the confines of the Rohilla countries; and when Ẓābiṭah Khān is still a member of the [Mahratta] confederacy.

Cop. I, 1770-2, no 69, pp. 24-6. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 164, pp. 242-5. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 92.

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Dec. 15. **505.** From Ghulām Ḥusain Khān. Says that the particulars of the affairs of the Rohillas are as follows. The Mahrattas are ravaging the districts round Etawa, Shaikhabad and Kanauj. Aḥmad Khān Bangash has offered 22 *lākhs* of rupees to the Mahrattas if they will desist from ravaging Etawa, but they would not accept it. Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān does not approve of the idea of paying them money, but wishes to engage them in battle. Ghāziu'd-Dīn Khān is endeavouring to effect a peace. The Mahrattas have compelled Nulī Singh to put his brother Ranjīt Singh in possession of the fort of Gumhire and the former will receive an annual sum of 20 *lākhs* from him. The Mahrattas who escorted Ranjīt Singh have, on their way back, stopped between Muttra and Akbarabad to demand the sum of 6 *lākhs*. Nawab Dūndī Khān who had recovered from his indisposition has again had a relapse and is now suffering from palsy in the left arm. The affairs of Government at Shahjahanabad is now in the hands of Ẓābiṭah Khān whose forces are in conjunction with those of the Mahrattas, and thus the Mahrattas are practically governing the country. States that if the Rohillas and the English *sardārs* will help the country may be freed from the hands of the Mahrattas, but if they once settle in it, endless difficulties will arise. Has represented these particulars for the Governor's information. Will communicate other particulars, when received.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 263, pp. 138-40. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 116.

Dec. 16. **506.** From Munīru'd-Daulah. Intends to set out from Patna on 15 *Sh'abān* for the Royal Presence. States that Mr Alexander in consequence of the Governor's recommendation has shown such regard for the writer that it requires volumes to describe it. Hopes that the Governor will recommend the writer to Colonel Gailliez that he may assist him (the writer) in all his affairs and adopt means to protect him from his enemies. Believes that the Governor has been informed by His Majesty's *shuqqah* that owing to the death of Najību'd-Daulah he intends marching to the capital. Will acquaint the Governor with all particulars on his arrival at Allahabad.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 264, p. 140. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 130.

Dec. 18. **507.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Acknowledges the receipt of the Governor's letter desiring him to supply Harī Paṇḍit, the Mahratta *vakīl*, with necessaries for his journey from Patna, and states in reply that the Governor's orders shall be duly carried out.

PS.—Has paid, as directed, all respects and attention to Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah. When the Nawab quits Patna he shall be supplied with everything that he may require on his journey.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 265, pp. 140-1. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 138.

Dec. 18. **508.** From Munīru'd-Daulah. Left Patna on Tuesday, 15 *Sh'abān*, and has pitched his tents at Dinapore. Had written to His Majesty and the Vazīr from Patna. Has now received replies from them at Dinapore. Paid a visit to General Barker in the evening and showed him the contents of the letters. Encloses both the Royal *shuqqah* and the Vazīr's letter for the Governor to peruse. States that His Majesty

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and the Vazīr are awaiting the arrival of General Barker. Advises the Governor to ask General Barker to accompany the writer to the Presence. Does not think it advisable for His Majesty to set out for Delhi at the present moment, for if he should once fall into the hands of the Mahrattas it would be but the fore-runner of far more overwhelming calamities. Assures the Governor that he will always be ready to serve His Majesty and the Company faithfully and devotedly, and it is his earnest desire to maintain the good name of the Governor and of the other English *sardārs*. Says that while the breath of life remains in him, the sense of the Governor's goodness will always be fresh in his memory.

PS.—Set out for Fyzabad on Friday, 19 *Sh'abān*. After he has had the honour of an audience with His Majesty and the Vazīr, he will communicate to the Governor the particulars he may learn. Is anxious to hear news of the welfare of the Governor.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 266, pp. 140-1. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 130.

Dec. 18. **509**. The King to Munīru'd-Daulah. Has received the addressee's letter intimating the news of his reaching Patna on 1 *Sh'abān*, and stating that on the arrival of General Barker he will set out in company with him to kiss the threshold of His Majesty; and states in reply that His Majesty's heart, inexhaustible as the deep ocean, has derived great happiness from its contents. Believes that His Majesty's loyal servant, General Barker, has by this time arrived at Patna and the addressee may have had an interview with him. Asks the addressee to set out speedily with the General as His Majesty is anxiously awaiting their arrival. The sooner they reach the sacred Presence the greater will be His Majesty's satisfaction. Has already written to General Barker about the death of Najību'd-Daulah. Desires the addressee to persuade the General to come with all possible speed as all His Majesty's negotiations and the management of affairs are suspended till his arrival.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 267, pp. 142-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 124.

Dec. 18. **510**. The Vazīr to Munīru'd-Daulah. Has received his letter intimating his arrival at Patna and his intention of coming to Fyzabad by way of Benares. Is very glad to learn this as his heart is anxious for an interview. Says that his 'brother', General Barker, has arrived at Monghyr. Is not aware whether the writer has had an interview with him. If so, requests him to write full particulars and to inform the writer of the conversation that passed between him and the General. Wishes to have an interview with the General, and says that it will be proper if both the addressee and the General come to Fyzabad together. Will accompany both of them to the sacred Presence.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 268, pp. 143-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 147.

Dec. 20. **511**. To the King. Intimates that Major Jenny is proceeding to Allahabad. He is a well-behaved and experienced man. He will present himself to His Majesty with this *'arẓī*.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 70, p. 26.

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Dec. 20. **512.** To the Vazir Shujā'u'd-Daulah. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 71, pp. 26-7.

Dec. 22. **513.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has learnt from an *'arẓī* from Riẓā Qulī Khān, who is stationed at Kalpi to examine the ships of the European nations, that on the arrival of a French ship at the *chaukī* he had sent the people of the *Niẓāmat* to search her; but the Captain of the ship neither listened to the directions of the officials nor allowed them to come near, notwithstanding the repeated messages from him [Riẓā Qulī Khān]. Says that the establishment of a *chaukī*, which involves a good deal of expenditure on the *Niẓāmat*, has now become the means of lowering the prestige of the *Niẓāmat*, since the Dutch as well, not to speak of other Europeans, can scarcely be said to have obeyed the orders; and now when they see that the French can treat them with impunity, will follow their example. Has repeatedly written to the French and communicated to them the necessary instructions, and he does not now think it worth the while to write them any more. Proposes either to stop the trade of all the French factories in the province or to withdraw Riẓā Qulī Khān from the *chaukī*. Awaits instructions from the Governor and will act accordingly.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 269, pp. 144-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 127.

Dec. 22. **514.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received the Governor's letter (i) enquiring why the writer did not put Raja Dayā Rām Panḍit in possession of the *jāgīr* although he has *sanads* from Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah and the Company, and (ii) referring to his own letter to Mr Alexander for further particulars. Says in reply that the facts connected with the *jāgīr* are as follows. Raja Dayā Rām Panḍit has procured *sanads* from Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah and Mr Verelst under the seal of the Company for the *jāgīr* yielding 6,80,604 *dāms*, the holders of which are still living and have been in actual possession of it, some for twenty or twenty-one years and others from 1172 *Faṣlī* or from the reign of 'Ālamgīr, and their names are severally written on the back of the *sanads* [they hold]. In the year 1177 *Faṣlī* Mr Verelst wrote to Mr Alexander and the writer on the subject of this *jāgīr*. The writer taking Mr Verelst's letter and the *sanads* from the Company and the Nawab [Saifu'd-Daulah] went in company with Raja Dayā Rām Panḍit's *vakīl* to Mr Alexander and represented the particulars to him. Mr Alexander remarked that Dayā Rām Panḍit's appointment to the *jāgīr* entailed the dismissal of the people who were in actual possession of it, and that he was not authorised to deprive them of their lawful rights. This was the cause which prevented the writer from putting Raja Dayā Rām Panḍit in possession of the said *jāgīr*. Requests instructions from the Governor on the subject as the holders of the *jāgīr* are still living.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 270, pp. 145-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 138.

Dec. 23. **515.** From Sheo Chand, son of Raja Kishn Chand. Has received the Governor's *parvānah* to the address of Raja Kishn Chand stating that the English forces are never guilty of any disturbances while on the march, and directing the Raja to repair to the camp of Colonel

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Muir to see for himself the discipline of the English forces and to seek to dispel the baseless fears from the minds of the ryots. Says in reply that it is an old proverb that 'a burnt child dreads the fire': the fears of the ryots were due to the fact that they suffered repeated violence and oppression at the hands of the sepoys of Sirāju'd-Daulah, when they were marching to and fro on the first arrival of the English troops and in the troublous times of Qāsim 'Alī K͟hān. Notwithstanding the instructions to the contrary, the ryots deserted their houses and went to a distance of two or three days' journey from the route of the troops to save their honour. They returned to their houses when the troops marched past the place. Knows perfectly well that the Commanding Officers spare no pains to cheer the ryots and to remove their despondency. Has, on the receipt of the Governor's *parvānah*, immediately in company with Mr Rider seen the ryots and endeavoured to dissuade them from deserting their houses. Is going two or three *kōs* ahead to meet Colonel Muir. Will write full particulars to the Governor after an interview with the Colonel.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 271, pp. 146-7. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 149.

Dec. 23. **516**. *Parvānah* issued by the Governor announces that the members of the Board at Murshidabad, appointed to enquire into the state of the revenues of all the districts in Bengal, report in respect of the district of Nadia that Raja Kishn Chand, in spite of the fixed rate of revenue, throws obstacles in the way of the officials appointed to manage the affairs of that district and openly declares that the district cannot yield yearly revenues of more than Rs 7,23,000; while it is a known fact that when the Raja himself managed the affairs of the *zamīndārī*, he used to collect more than that sum. They, after due deliberation and consideration, now recommend that Raja Kishn Chand be deprived of all the power and authority he exercises over Nadia, and that Mr Reade be appointed to manage the affairs of the revenues of that district. The Governor has therefore appointed Mr Reade to enquire into the state of the revenues of Nadia and to manage the affairs of the *zamīndārī* in the name of Raja Kishn Chand. They do not contemplate raising the revenue above the figure already fixed; they wish to put a stop to all the irregularities in the collection of the revenue and to ensure that it will be punctually collected henceforward and that the true valuation of the land will be ascertained. When the latter aim is achieved, *paṭṭahs* will be granted to the ryots so that no future *amīns* or *taḥṣīldārs* may collect more revenue than what is mentioned in them. The benefits which will accrue in future in consequence of this system will be to the advantage of the ryots. Declares that the ryots will be relieved of the acts of tyranny and oppression from which they have of long been the victims; and if in any village in that district any person is found guilty of oppression, the duties of the *amīns* will be to take steps to put a stop to it, and to inflict such punishment on the culprit as may deter others from doing likewise. A person has also been appointed to act for Raja Kishn Chand, who will sign all orders, documents etc. on behalf of the Raja. He will not be subordinate to the *amīns*.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 72, pp. 27-8.

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Dec. 24. **517**. From the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received the letter enclosing copies of letters to Mādhū Rāo and Rām Chandar Ganēsh and informing the writer of the particulars of the conversation which passed between the Governor and the Mahratta *vakīl*. Says in reply that it is evident that the writer does nothing without consulting the Governor and informs him of all events either great or small. Blessed be the Almighty that the Governor is likewise inclined to follow the same principle. Assures the Governor that this frankness and the identity of interests must be conducive to 'our' mutual benefit and advantage. Considers the prosperity of the people, the interests of his friend, the Governor, and the glory of the Empire as the first and foremost object of his life. With the assistance of the Almighty, he hopes to promote the prosperity of His Majesty and strengthen the ties of friendship with the English *sardārs*. Is prepared to defend his own country. States that the Mahrattas settled their disputes with Nulī Singh, the Jāṭ, and have overspread the country of the Rohillas. They have reduced several places to dust and have laid siege to others, strong and well fortified, and demand their surrender. They have gone so far as to send their scouting parties to the environs of Kora, and these parties have ravaged several places. During these three or four months, has written two or three letters to the Governor but has received no reply. As the writer does nothing without the advice of his friend, the Governor, all his affairs are at a standstill. Has not carried on any negotiations with the Mahrattas save the ordinary correspondence for the Governor formerly bade him trust not at all in their treaties and engagements. Is of opinion that the Mahrattas and the Rohillas, who are now fighting, will soon come to an agreement. The Mahrattas will then divert their attention to the writer and will either attack his territory or demand a treaty of friendship and alliance from him. Is tired of writing to the Governor and desires him to favour him with his opinion and advice on the matter as soon as possible so that he may act accordingly.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 272, pp. 147-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 147.

Dec. 24. **518**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. States that agreeably to the orders of the Governor an elephant and five ponies have been delivered to the Mahratta *vakīl* for Rām Chandar Ganēsh.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 273, p. 149. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 127.

Dec. 24. **519**. From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a *qisṭ* of Rs 3,40,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 274, pp. 149-50. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 143.

Dec. 24. **520**. From the *Dīwān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 274, p. 150. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

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Dec. 24. **521.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Acknowledges the receipt of the Khān's letter communicating the particulars connected with the search of a French ship, and recommending that either the whole French trade be stopped or that the *chaukī* entirely withdrawn. Observes that the French have always been the foremost to disobey the orders of the *Niẓāmat*. Entirely agrees with the Khān that some measures are necessary to bring the French to obedience. Advises the Khān to write to M. Chevalier, Director of the French company, a letter couched in the strongest language to the effect that unless the French ships submit to a search in the same way as the ships of the other European nations do, their export and import trade will be stopped, and their whole business throughout the province will cease. Should the French after this repeated avowal of the resolutions of the *Niẓāmat* still refuse to submit to a search at the *chaukī*, the Khān is at liberty to take such measures as may appear to him advisable.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 73, p. 28. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 165, pp. 245-6. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 81.

Dec. 24. **522.** General Sir Robert Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Acknowledges the receipt of his letter. States that no letters have as yet been received from Calcutta. The addressee will be informed as soon as one is received.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 9, p. 10.

Dec. 25. **523.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has, by the blessing of God and the auspices of the Governor, begun the *band-o-bast* of the *ṣūbah* Behar in conjunction with Messrs Alexander, Vansittart and Palk. Has, 'today', 26 *Rajab*, rented 12 *maḥāls* for the sum of Rs 9,00,447 with good security. Will communicate particulars to the Governor when the settlement of other *maḥāls* is made in consultation with the three above-mentioned gentlemen.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 275, p. 150. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 138.

Dec. 27. **524.** From Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. Has learnt from the correspondence of Shaikh 'Alī Naqī the particulars of the Governor's grace and favour towards this humble servant, the writer. Has already sent many *'arẓīs* to the Governor, and hopes he has received them. Says that his welfare and well-being and those of his dependants are centered in him. Hopes that the Governor will send him a treaty through Shaikh 'Alī Naqī, as the favours of the English *sardārs* will dignify his position and will give satisfaction to his adherents.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 276, pp. 150-1. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 114.

Dec. 27. **525.** From Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Sends a present of shawls.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 277, p. 151. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 129.

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Dec. 27. **526**. To Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Acknowledges the receipt of a present of shawls, and offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 74, p. 28. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 166, p. 246. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 82.

Dec. 28. **527**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the Governor's letter relating to a French Captain's refusing to allow his ship to be searched at the *chaukī* at Kalpi, and desiring the writer not to pass over the matter in silence. Had, before the receipt of the Governor's letter, learnt the details from the *'arẓī* of Riẓā Qulī Khān, *Dārōghah* of Kalpi. Has already communicated the contents of the *Dārōghah's* letter for the Governor's information. Has written plainly to the Director of the French company that if the orders of the *Niẓāmat* are not obeyed and if he will not permit the ships to be searched at the *chaukī*, serious measures will be taken to enforce those orders. Will, on receipt of a reply to his *parvānah*, put a stop to the business of all the French factories in the province, as no other measures appear to be effective. Will act as the Governor directs.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 278, p. 151. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 127.

Dec. 29. **528**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Sends a present of apples.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 279, p. 151. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 138.

Dec. 29. **529**. From Munnī Bēgam. Offers compliments.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 280, p. 152. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 128.

Dec. 30. **530**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Intimates that for some time past Rām Chandar Ganēsh and the other Mahratta *sardārs* have been attacking Kabīr Khān, *Qal'ahdār* of Etawa and a *Nāib* of Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān; but since last ten or twelve days negotiations have commenced between them. 'Today' which is 2 *Ramaẓān*, has learnt from a paper of news that the Mahrattas and Kabīr Khān have come to some sort of terms and that a treaty is being drawn up. As soon as the treaty is made over to Kabīr Khān, the fort of Etawa will be delivered to the Mahrattas. Rām Chandar Ganēsh has appointed Kāshī Rāj Paṇḍit, brother of Bālājī, one of the Mahratta *sardārs*, to the *Faujdārī* which is dependent on Kora. The Mahrattas have established a *chaukī* in the *parganah* Bhuttore and intend to attack Sirajpore. Thinks that after settling the affairs of the Etawa fort, the Mahrattas will probably turn their attention to Kora.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 281, p. 152. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 138.

Dec. 30. **531**. From Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. A duplicate copy of his letter dated 27 December 1770.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 282, p. 152. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 114.

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Dec. 30. **532**. To the Sēṭhs. Acknowledges the receipt of a congratulatory *nazr* of five gold mohurs sent by the Sēṭhs, and offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 75, pp. 28-9. Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 167, p. 246.

Dec. 31. **533**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the Governor's letter in answer to his relating to the French ship, and desires him to write to the Director of the French company to the effect that if he will not obey the orders of the *Niẓāmat* like other Europeans and allow his ships to be searched [at the *chaukī*], the trade of all the French factories will be stopped. Says that before the receipt of the Governor's letter he had written a threatening letter to that effect to the Director of the French company and sent a copy to Raja Kāshī Nāth, who must have presented it to the Governor. Encloses copy of that letter and says that it is merely threatening, but the expression 'stopping their trade not only in exports and imports but the business of all their factories' was not inserted. On receipt of a reply, will write another letter to M. Chevalier agreeably to the Governor's directions and will act as he orders.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 283, pp. 152-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 127.

Dec. 31. **534**. Muḥammad Riẓā Khān to M. Chevalier, Director of the French company. Has repeatedly informed him that officials have been stationed by the *Niẓāmat* at the *chaukī* at Kalpi to search the ships of the Europeans and that the addressee should direct the captains, pilots and other officers of the French vessels to allow their ships to be searched at Kalpi. Has learnt from Riẓā Qulī Khān and others stationed there that captains and officers of the French ships that arrive at the *chaukī* neither allow their ships to be searched nor pay any attention to the orders of the *Niẓāmat*. Warns him that if the orders of the *Niẓāmat* are not obeyed, serious measures will be taken to enforce those orders. Dated 20 December.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 283, pp. 153-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 127.

Dec. 31. **535**. From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a *qisṭ* of Rs 3,50,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 284, p. 154. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 143.

Dec. 31. **536**. From the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 285, p. 154. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 115.

Dec. 31. **537**. From the Sēṭhs. Send a *nazr* of five gold mohurs on the occasion of Christmas.

Trans. R. and I., 1770, no 286, p. 154. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 149.

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538. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Arrived safe at Benares on 19 December. His Majesty has condescended to send Ḥusāmu'd-Dīn Khān and Farzand Khān to Benares in order to meet him. After an interview with these gentlemen he will set out for Allahabad in company with them. Will send a detailed account of affairs for the Governor's information on his arrival at Allahabad.

PS.—His Majesty has sent Bahādur 'Alī Khān with *khal'at* and *shuqqahs* for Ẓābiṭah Khān, son of the deceased Najību'd-Daulah, to the Vazīr at Faizabad. The Vazīr has given Bahādur 'Alī Khān Rs 5,000 to meet the expenses [of his journey] and dismissed him. His Majesty will shortly send Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān from his sacred Presence to negotiate with the Mahratta *sardārs*. Says that His Majesty is intent upon setting out for the capital on the arrival of the writer in the sublime Presence. Will acquaint the Governor with full particulars of His Majesty's intentions. Hopes that in consequence of his representations His Majesty may postpone his march to the capital this year. Thinks it advisable that General Barker should proceed with all possible speed to the Royal Presence, as on the arrival of that gentleman all affairs are expected to assume a satisfactory aspect. Has been prompted by the sincerity of his intentions to write on the subject of the General. Is always ready to serve His Majesty and the Company loyally and to keep up the good names of the English *sardārs*. Says that the Governor's goodness will always remain fresh in his memory. Has learnt that one or two persons residing in Calcutta, who are void of wisdom and are untrue to their salt, carry on correspondence with several people of note [at the Court]. Is on the look-out for their correspondence, and will forward any that he can lay his hands on to the Governor. Has written this so that the Governor may be on his guard.

Trans. R., 1771, no 1, pp. 1, 2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 156.

Jan. 2.

539. From Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. Says that Munīru'd-Daulah has arrived at Benares. From him he has learnt the particulars of the bounty and favour of the Governor towards the writer. Requests the Governor to send a treaty by the hands of his *vakīl*, Shaikh 'Alī Naqī.

Trans. R., 1771, no 2, p. 2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 161.

Jan. 2.*

540. To Munnī Bēgam. Expresses pleasure at the receipt of her letter and is glad to learn that she is keeping well and prays for his health. Says that under the grace of God things are faring well with him. Hopes to hear from her every now and then.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 77, p. 29. Trans. I., 1771, no 1, p. 1. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 100.

Jan. 3.

541. General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Acknowledges the receipt of his letter intimating that as he was summoned repeatedly by His Majesty to come to the Presence, he was obliged to go to Allahabad. Approves of his having gone to Allahabad for waiting on His Majesty and desires to be informed of anything taking place in his interview with His Majesty.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 11, p. 12.

* Jan. 8 according to the volume of copies.

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Jan. 3. **542.** General Barker to Najaf Khān. Acknowledges the receipt of his letter asking why he is not favoured with answers to his letters. Says that he always remembers him, but is prevented from writing to him by the pressure of business. Hopes to hear from him as usual till the happy occasion of an interview presents itself.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 12, p. 12.

Jan. 5. **543.** General Barker to Manīru'd-Daulah. Acknowledges the receipt of his letter desiring to know if an answer to the writer's letter has come from Calcutta. Says he has not yet received any letter from the Gentlemen of the Council. But yesterday, the 4th of *Ramazān*, he learnt in a letter from Mr Russell, a friend of his, that a letter from the Gentlemen of the Council would be sent, dealing presumably with the affairs of His Majesty, and that it would be received in the course of two or three days. Advises the addressee to come to the Presence as soon as possible, as the settlement of some important matters, particularly the question of the Bengal tribute, depends on his arrival at the Court. The time for paying the *qists* has come, and if the money reaches the Court in his absence, it is likely to be spent in a way least advantageous to the Royal *Sarkār*. Asks him to hasten to the Court and to take charge of the Bengal tribute as formerly, so that the present *qist* may be received by him in person. Has learnt in a letter from the Chief of Rajmahal that all the boats belonging to the addressee's *Sarkār* have been released, with the exception of two which will be released as soon as they can produce a passport recommending exemption from duties. It is therefore necessary that the addressee should write to Mr Vansittart respecting the passport and direct any *vakīl* of the *Sarkār* stationed there to bring the passport to the writer who will immediately send it to Rajmahal. On the receipt of the passport the boats will be released.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 10, pp. 10-12.

Jan. 6. **544.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has already sent to the Governor a detailed account of the negotiations between Rām Chandar Ganēsh and the other Mahratta *sardārs* and Kabīr Khān, *Qal'ahdār* of Etawa and a *Nāib* of Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān; that they have come to some sort of terms; and that a treaty is being drawn up, and as soon as it is made over to Kabīr Khān, the fort of Etawa will be delivered to the Mahrattas. 'To-day' which is 24 December, there has arrived a paper of news to the following effect. On the morning of 15 December, Kabīr Khān and his attendants began to remove their baggage from the fort. Mādhōjī Sindia, one of the Mahratta *sardārs*, posted Mirzā Raḥmat Bēg and Bhore, his *Dīvān*, at the gate of the fort to see that the effects, tents etc. from the citadel were safely removed to the encampment of Kabīr Khān. They accordingly had the baggage carried by their own men. At 12 o'clock Rām Chandar Ganēsh, Mādhōjī Sindia and Gangādhar Ballabh hoisted their separate colours on the fort and nearly 400 men of the Mahratta forces took possession of it. Before the approach of the enemy [the Mahrattas] they removed from the fort as much of the effects as they could, and what was left

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behind they put under the charge of Gangādhar Ballabh. Should Kabīr Khān stay till 'to-morrow,' they will remove the ammunition. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon Kabīr Khān quitted the fort and repaired to his encampment, and the fort fell into the hands of the Mahrattas. Will hereafter send whatever intelligence may come to his knowledge.

PS.—Had previously informed the Governor that the Mahrattas had established their *chaukī* in the *parganah* Bhuttore dependent upon Kora. Has now learnt from a paper of news that they have since removed their *chaukī* from that place.

Trans. R., 1771, no 3, pp. 2, 3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 162.

Jan. 6.* **545.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy. Acknowledges the receipt of his friendly letter together with the present of Persian apples in a basket, through Shaikh Burhānu'd-Dīn. Thanks him for the present and hopes to hear from him frequently.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 76, p. 29. Trans. I., 1771, no 2, p. 1. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 102.

Jan. 8.† **546.** To the King. Although he has not been honoured of late by the receipt of His Majesty's favour in the shape of a letter on the present situation of affairs, yet he has learnt from various reports that the Mahrattas have audaciously violated their engagements, entered His Majesty's possessions and now threaten to plunder the inhabitants. As the English gentlemen, His Majesty's loyal servants, are always ready to protect His Majesty's honour and defend his Royal dominions, he has directed General Barker to march with the English forces to the banks of the Karamnasa and to wait there in readiness to afford what assistance may be necessary to drive back these haughty invaders of the Empire. Assures His Majesty that to provide for his safety and the defence of his dominions is the first object of his heart, and that he will do all in his power to secure His Majesty's welfare and satisfaction.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 78, p. 29. Trans. I., 1771, no 3, p. 1. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 99.

Jan. 8. **547.** To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Acknowledges the receipt of His Excellency's friendly letter in answer to his own, in which he enclosed copies of those letters he had written to Mādhū Rāo and Rām Chandar Ganēsh, and says that he has understood the sentiments of His Excellency on the present situation. Has repeatedly brought home to His Excellency that, in his opinion, it would add much to His Excellency's honour and dignity if His Excellency stood forth at the present juncture to free the inhabitants of Hindustan from the yoke of the Mahrattas, to help the Rohilla chiefs who stand in much sore need. Points out that His Excellency's reputation would spread over the world if amid the acclamations of his subjects he would but gird his loins to free the Empire from an enemy so destructive to its prosperity. It

* Jan. 8 according to the volume of copies.

† Jan. 10 according to the volume of copies.

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may be that he may be wrong in his counsel and that his judgment may not coincide with that of His Excellency; but he is sure that he has always given such advice that has appeared to him best suited to promote His Excellency's dignity and to secure the general welfare of the State. In support of his argument and to show that English gentlemen are not inactive when the defence of His Majesty and His Excellency's possessions require their assistance, says that he has ordered General Barker to march with the English forces to the banks of the Karamnasa and to wait there in readiness to help, if need be, in driving back these invaders of the dominions of His Majesty and His Excellency. Is confident that these disturbers of public peace will be properly punished. Asks His Excellency to rest satisfied that the only thing which the English gentlemen desire is that they may adhere strictly to the terms of the treaty, may show to the world their allegiance to the throne and their friendship with His Excellency.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 79, pp. 29, 30. Trans. I., 1771, no. 4. pp. 1, 2. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 105.

Jan. 11. **548**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Intimates his arrival at Allahabad on 26 December safe and in perfect health. On the 27th attended the Royal Presence in company with His Royal Highness Mirzā Akbar Shāh, when His Majesty conferred honours on the writer as is customary on such occasions. He then presented the Governor's *'arẓi* and commended his (the Governor's) loyalty and attachment to His Majesty. His Majesty being highly pleased with the Governor ordered a *shuqqah* to be written to him in answer to his *'arẓī* which he now forwards. His Majesty is prepared to act according to the advice of the Governor, and he (the writer) hopes that all affairs will be settled according to the Governor's satisfaction. Is ready with heart and soul to serve His Majesty and the Company. Wishes to take leave of His Majesty on 1 January and set out for Faizabad to see the Vazīr. Will come back to Allahabad soon. Will inform the Governor of all that takes place at Allahabad.

PS.—States that six or seven days before his arrival at Allahabad, His Majesty had sent Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān with *shuqqahs* to the Mahrattas. Thinks that the Governor has already been informed of this from the correspondence of His Majesty and Colonel Gailliez.

Trans. R., 1771, no 4, pp. 3, 4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 156.

Jan. 11. **549**. From the King. Has received the Governor's *'arẓī* stating that Munīru'd-Daulah is proceeding to the enlightened Presence, and expressing the hope that His Majesty from the cordial relations that have so long subsisted between him and the English *sardārs,* will consider their honour and interests as bound with his own. In reply says that His Majesty is greatly pleased with the sincerity of the wishes and the excellent services of his loyal and faithful servant, the Governor. Thinks the arrival of Munīru'd-Daulah at this juncture opportune and advisable. Will confer more honours than before on Munīru'd-Daulah as he is a loyal servant of the sacred throne and a sincere well-wisher of the English *sardārs.* As the regulation of the affairs of the Empire

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rests entirely with the English *sardārs*, His Majesty will refer all questions to them for their opinion and advice. His Majesty hopes that his concerns will be settled according to his wishes.

Trans. R., 1771, no 5, pp. 4, 5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 155.

Jan. 11. **550**. General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Acknowledges the receipt of his letter stating that before his arrival at the Court, people (his enemies) secured a receipt from His Majesty for the 16 *lākhs* of rupees, the balance of the Bengal tribute, in the name of Raja Shitāb Rāy and to whom it was sent. Says that although his enemies were active and quick in securing the receipt, yet to obtain the control over the Bengal tribute was not at all difficult for the addressee. Suggests that the addressee do secure a *shuqqah* from the King to Mr Cartier to this effect that as His Majesty thought that Munīru'd-Daulah would be late in coming to the Presence, and as money was urgently required, His Majesty issued a receipt for the balance of the Bengal tribute in the name of Raja Shitāb Rāy. But now that Munīru'd-Daulah has come earlier to the Presence, His Majesty has granted him a fresh receipt for the balance of the Bengal tribute. Requests Mr Cartier to consider the former receipt as null and void and to pay the balance of the Bengal tribute to the *gumāshtah* of Munīru'd-Daulah.

Asks the addressee to send the letter in the terms above stated. Says that this measure will accord with the views of Mr Cartier. Represents further that on obtaining the *shuqqah*, the addressee should inform him (the writer) of the name of the man the addressee will engage in Calcutta to accomplish this business. The writer offers to pay the balance to His Majesty from his own pocket, provided the *shuqqah* is obtained and the name of the man to be engaged in Calcutta is known to him. Though he does not think that the Bengal tribute will be paid on the previous receipt before the arrival of the *shuqqah*, yet he urges the addressee to obtain the *shuqqah*; the sooner he does so the better. In case of any delay in obtaining the *shuqqah*, the writer desires to be informed thereof.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 13, p. 14.

Jan. 12. **551.** To Raja Chait Singh. Rām Sundar Rāy, *gumāshtah* of Mr Grant, robbed a certain English gentleman at Calcutta of about seventy thousand rupees and absconded with it. It is about a month since the said *gumāshtah* was caught and is now here in confinement. As not a single pice has been recovered from him, the writer is at a loss to think what he has done with the money or where he has kept it. It appears from the letter of Mr Motte that a son of the *gumāshtah* is living at Benares. Requests the Raja therefore to afford such assistance that neither the money nor the effects belonging to the said Rām Sundar may elude the search. As he is anxious to regain the money of the gentleman, his pleasure will be in proportion to any exertions, that the Raja may make on his behalf.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 80, pp. 30-1.

Jan. 12.* **552.** To Munīru'd-Daulah. Tēj Chand, the son of the deceased Mahāraja Tilōk Chand, has succeeded to the *gaddī* of Burdwan and

* Jan. 17 according to the volume of copies.

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solicited the Governor to procure for him the title and honours of his late father. The Governor has accordingly written a letter to His Majesty on the subject, which accompanies an *'arẓī* from Tēj Chand to the same effect. Requests the addressee to deliver them to His Majesty and procure the honours customary on such occasions. The Governor has received from Tēj Chand 101 gold mohurs as a *naẓr* to be presented to His Majesty, which he has made over to Bābū Kāshī Nāth, the addressee's attorney. Requests the addressee to present a *naẓr* to that amount to His Majesty on the delivery of the *'arẓī*.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 82, p. 31. Trans. I., 1771, no 5, pp. 2, 3. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 100.

Jan. 12.* **553**. To the King. Tēj Chand, the son of the late Mahāraja Tilōk Chand has succeeded to the *gaddī* of Burdwan and requested the Governor to solicit His Majesty to confer on him the title and honours of his late father. His Majesty will accordingly receive an *'arẓī* and a *naẓr* of 101 gold mohurs from Munīru'd-Daulah. Submits that as Tēj Chand is a dependant of the Company, His Majesty will be graciously pleased to confer on him the customary title and honours on this occasion.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 81, p. 31. Trans. I., 1771, no 6, p. 3. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 99.

Jan. 13. **554**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Sends a present of shawls.

Trans. R., 1771, no 6, p. 5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 158.

Jan. 15. **555**. From Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. Requests the Governor to send a treaty by the hands of his *vakīl*, Shaikh 'Alī Naqī.

Trans. R., 1771, no 7, p. 6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 161.

Jan. 15. **556**. General Barker to the King. Submits that Asadu'l-lah Khān obtained leave of the English gentlemen to go to the port of Surat and proceeded as far as Rewa, where he was prevented by the people of Raja Ajīt Singh from going further. Solicits His Majesty therefore to issue a *farmān* forbidding anyone to obstruct the people proceeding thither, so that the Khān may continue his journey to the port.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 14, p. 16.

Jan. 16.† **557**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Intimates that Mr Middleton is going to Murshidabad as the Resident to the *Darbār*. Asks the addressee to consider the gentleman's friendship and good will towards him as sincere. The gentleman has forgotten and effaced from his mind the feeling of irritation that formerly existed between him and the addressee.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 86, p. 32. Trans. I., 1771, no 7, p. 3. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 101.

Jan. 16. **558**. General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Before this he promised that as soon as he received an answer to his letter from Calcutta, he would inform him. An answer to his letter has just now come from

* Jan. 17 according to the volume of copies.
† Jan. 21 according to the volume of copies.

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Calcutta. Accordingly he intends to march the whole of the army out of Dinapur. Hopes the addressee will continue to supply him the detailed news with respect to the Mahratta and the Afghān armies together with the secret motives of His Majesty.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 15, p. 16.

Jan. 16. **559.** General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Acknowledges the receipt of His Excellency's letter in answer to his and says he has understood the contents, namely, what His Excellency wrote regarding the authenticity of the news of the Mahratta army and other events in that quarter; how His Excellency thought it proper to consult the pleasure of the English gentlemen for the good of his State; how he suspended the execution of his policy on the advice of the writer and how he kept under the Mahrattas and the Afghāns by dallying with them. But the writer is most anxious as he has not for a long time heard of His Excellency's health. Hopes His Excellency will gratify him by informing him about his health, particularly the intentions of His Majesty. Refers His Excellency, for further particulars, to Captain Harper.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 16, p. 16.

Jan. 17. **560.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a *qisṭ* of Rs 3,40,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R., 1771, no 8, p. 6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 164.

Jan. 17. **561.** From the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 9, p. 6.

Jan. 19. **562.** From Munīru'd-Daulah. Has already informed the Governor of his arrival at Allahabad, of his presenting the Governor's *'arẓī* in the enlightened Presence and of his forwarding a Royal *shuqqah* in answer, which he hopes the Governor has received. Says that he left Allahabad on 1 January, arrived at Faizabad on the 6th and had an interview with the Vazīr. After a long conference with him he has found out that the latter is a sincere friend of the Governor and the English *sardārs*, a loyal servant of His Majesty and a well-wisher of the Company. Is perfectly satisfied with His Majesty and the Vazīr. Thinks that His Majesty, the Vazīr and the Governor are really one soul in three bodies, and they cannot be separated from one another. Is of opinion that the Vazīr will not do the least thing without the advice of the Governor. Let the Governor's heart be at rest on this account!

PS.—The Mahrattas after capturing the fort of Etawa have turned their attention towards Farrukhabad, and are at present negotiating with Aḥmad Khān, Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān and Dūndī Khān, but both sides are prepared to give battle. The Vazīr has sent his son with a force to the confines of his territory. His Majesty and the Vazīr are anxiously awaiting the arrival of General Barker in order to consult with him as to the steps they should take in the present crisis. Is prompted by the sincerity of his intentions to write to the Governor that the sooner the General arrives the greater will be the pleasure of His Majesty and the Vazīr. The arrival of the General will improve the

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situation and will stop the Mahrattas from carrying out their wicked designs. Requests the Governor to write pressingly to General Barker to set out from Patna with two or three battalions for the enlightened Presence. Has explained in a proper manner to His Majesty the inexpediency of proceeding to the capital at the present time. His Majesty has listened to his arguments and has postponed his departure for some time. The Vazīr too disapproves of His Majesty's proceeding to the capital now. Will in five or six days take leave of the Vazīr and return to His Majesty. Will then apply himself to regulating the affairs of the Royal House.

Trans. R., 1771, no 10, pp. 6-8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 157.

Jan. 20. **563**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Acknowledges receipt of the Governor's letter on the subject of Mr Middleton's appointment as Resident at the *Darbār*. Says that he will spare no pains in transacting the business of the *Sarkār* in conjunction with that gentleman.

Trans. R., 1771, no 11, p. 8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 158.

Jan. 21. **564**. To the King. As the Mahrattas have come to an agreement with the Rohillas, the Gentlemen of the Council apprehend that they will invade the Royal territories. Accordingly they have directed General Barker, immediately on ascertaining their intentions, to march the English troops into the Kora province for its protection and then to consult the pleasure of His Majesty in order that this disloyal people may effectually be driven to a greater distance from the Royal possessions.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 83, pp. 31-2. Trans. I., 1771, no 8, p. 4. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 99.

Jan. 21. **565**. To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 84, p. 32. Trans. I., 1771, no 9, p. 4. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 105.

Jan. 21. **566**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Intimates that Mr Alexander starts for Patna. He will not halt at Murshidabad, as he is travelling with a limited number of horses. The gentleman consequently desires that the addressee will not trouble either to receive him or to have an interview with him on his way.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 85, p. 32.

Jan. 22. **567**. From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a *qisṭ* of 3 *lākhs* on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R., 1771, no 12, pp. 8, 9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 164.

Jan. 22. **568**. From the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 13, p. 9.

Jan. 22. **569**. From the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received the Governor's letter and understood its contents. It is well known that for some months past the Mahrattas have been very active. He has already sent to the Governor a detailed account of events. Has

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delayed taking action for so long, as he has been expecting the advice of his friend, the Governor. Moreover General Barker is tarrying still, while the Mahrattas are ravaging the lands adjacent to those of His Majesty and the writer. Is setting out for the boundaries of his country, the better to defend his own territory and that of His Majesty. If the Mahrattas continue to preserve the path of friendship, and remain firm and immovable in their obedience to His Majesty and in their attachment to the English *sardārs* and the writer, he will neither have any business with them, nor call them to account, but will be neutral and remain in his own land. But if the Mahrattas deviate from the path of obedience to His Majesty and of attachment to His Excellency and the writer, and are guilty of hostilities and disturbances, he is equally prepared to oppose them in defending his own territory and that of His Majesty. Enquires whether the Governor, according to his promise, will despatch forces. Has written this for the information of the Governor.

PS.—Says that an engagement is likely to take place between him and the Mahrattas. As the Governor resides at a very great distance, it will cause a great delay if he awaits a reply to his letter to the Governor. Requests the Governor to issue explicit directions to General Barker to join the writer whenever he is asked to do so.

Trans. R., 1771, no 14, pp. 9, 10. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 167.

Jan. 23. **570.** From Ghulām Ḥusain. Has already sent two letters giving a detailed account of all the events of this part of the country, which, he hopes, the Governor has received. Has now received fresh intelligence which he encloses for the Governor's information. Desires the Governor to write a letter to Fatḥu'l-lah Khān, son of Nawab Dūndī Khān, deceased, and son-in-law of Nawab Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān, enquiring after his welfare. Desires the Governor also to write a letter to Ẓābiṭah Khān. Says that Fatḥu'l-lah Khān is sensible of the Governor's high dignity and is his (the Governor's) real well-wisher. His Majesty has written a Royal *shuqqah* of condolence to Fatḥu'l-lah Khān and all the chiefs of Hindustan have likewise addressed him. Has written this letter with the express object of bringing this fact to the notice of the Governor.

Trans. R., 1771, no 15, pp. 10, 11. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 154.

Jan. 23. **571.** From Ghulām Ḥusain Khān. Says that some time ago Nawab Ghāziu'd-Dīn Khān came from the Mahratta camp to settle terms of peace with Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān and Nawab Aḥmad Khān. The Mahrattas have agreed, to withdraw their forces from Etawa, Shaikhabad and Kanauj and will receive a sum of 20 *lākhs* of rupees payable within 3 years. On the return of Ghāziu'd-Dīn Khān to the Mahratta camp, they insisted on having a further sum of 2 *lākhs* of rupees. Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān has likewise given his consent to the additional 2 *lākhs*. According to the first agreement Aḥmad Khān was to pay 12 *lākhs* on account of Kanauj, Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān Rs 5,50,000 for Etawa and Dūndī Khān Rs 2,50,000 on account of Shaikhabad, and both parties swore to the agreement. Rām Chandar Ganēsh and

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Mādhōjī Sindia were satisfied, but Takōjī Hulkar, who is an enemy of Ghāziu'd-Dīn, disagreed and impeded the adjustment of affairs and insisted on fighting. Ghāziu'd-Dīn Khān then took his departure for Ajmer. Takōjī Hulkar assists and supports Nawab Ẓābiṭah Khān, who has represented to Takōjī that the Rohilla *sardārs* have a large force, and that if they could be gained over, great deeds could be performed in Hindustan. While this was going on 10,000 Mahrattas set out and ravaged the country subordinate to the fort of Farrukhabad. The Rohillas accordingly rushed out and an engagement ensued in which many of the Mahrattas were killed and the remainder put to flight. Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān had sent 200 pieces of cannon and a large quantity of rockets with several thousand Rohillas to reinforce the troops at Farrukhabad. He has now sent Khān Muḥammad Khān, Sattār Khān and Ghulām Jīlānī Khān with 10,000 horse and foot, and himself wishes to cross the Ganges to inspect the ramparts and his own army. He is determined to meet the Mahrattas on the field if they are not satisfied with the offer. A man named Gulāb Rāy has arrived to negotiate on behalf of the Mahrattas. Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān, not being pleased with some persons who are in possession of the districts at Etawa, will not cross the Ganges to afford them assistance. For the last 12 years these persons have been in possession of the districts, which were formerly in the hands of the Mahrattas. The Rohillas used to pay the Mahrattas an annual sum of Rs 80,000 as *chaut* for their own country. Rām Chandar Ganēsh has now written to Mādhū Rāo complaining of Takōjī Hulkar and of the differences that subsist between him and Takōjī. Takōjī wishes to settle affairs with the Rohillas independently, while Rām Chandar Ganēsh is of opinion that they should be settled through Mādhōjī Sindia. The Mahrattas, after settling affairs with Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān, desire the latter to give them 5,000 horse and foot under the command of his nephew Khān Muḥammad Khān, and hope by these means to gain possession of the fort of Shahjahanabad. Rām Chandar Ganēsh has written to Mādhū Rāo on the subject.

Trans. R., 1771, no 16, pp. 11-13. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 154.

Jan. 23. **572.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Intimates that Mr Barwell has been appointed to the place of Mr Reade and is going to Murshidabad. As the gentleman has been one of the members of the Council, the addressee is requested to show him the same degree of regard that he used to show to Mr Reade. This act on the part of the addressee will give satisfaction both to the Governor and Mr Barwell.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 87, p. 32.

Jan. 24. **573.** From Mirzā Najaf Khān. Complains that he has not received any letter from the Governor for a long time. Requests the Governor to issue orders to Mr Motte to pay his salary regularly, as he has no other allowances but the salary that he receives from the Company. Hopes that the Governor will write to him frequently about his welfare.

Trans. R., 1771, no 17, p. 13. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 160.

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Jan. 25. **574**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Sends a present of pomegranates.

Trans. R., 1771, no 18, p. 13.

Jan. 25. **575**. From the King. Says that His Majesty has borrowed Rs 40,000 from the merchants to repair the banks of the river Ganges, and has granted a receipt for the amount on the Bengal tribute. Has delivered the receipt to Colonel Gailliez with instructions to forward it to the Governor. Desires the Governor to issue instructions to the managers of Murshidabad to discharge the amount.

Trans. R., 1771, no 19, pp. 13, 14. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 155.

Jan. 26.* **576**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Thanks him for the receipt of his letter accompanying a present of shawls, as specified in a list, through Raja Kāshī Nāth.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 89, p. 33. Trans. I., 1771, no 10, p. 4. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 101.

Jan. 27. **577**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Says that it cannot have escaped His Excellency's knowledge that the *ṣūbah* of Behar is a large and open country and is the boundary of the Company's territory; that the three battalions of sepoys, appointed for the collection of the revenues of the *ṣūbah*, are employed in pressing payments; and that two or three companies are stationed at the Royal *kachehrī*. Formerly there were four battalions stationed in this *ṣūbah*. Later on when one battalion of this *ṣūbah* was disbanded, another was raised at Dinapore which occasionally gave the assistance that was required of it. Now that the troops [at Dinapore] have received orders to hold themselves in readiness to march westward, one battalion will not be sufficient for the safeguard of Dinapore. Moreover at such a time when disturbances are rife on all sides and the people of this country are naturally turbulent and are easily excited, three battalions will not suffice to defend and secure the boundaries of the Company's territory and to reinforce the *chaukīs*. The English gentlemen here have probably written to the Governor on the subject, and it is certain that His Excellency will send them whatever answer appears to him proper and advisable. Has written this for the Governor's information.

PS.—The Governor well knows that when there is no danger near, there is no room for apprehensions. But should disturbances arise (which God forbid!) the ditch at Azimabad, the capital of the *ṣūbah*, if kept in perfect order, will be a safeguard against the attack of an enemy. It is known to the Governor how serviceable the ditch proved on previous occasions. At the present moment it is in a very bad state and all the watch-houses are empty. Says that His Excellency well knows how the ditch can be set right and the watch-houses fortified in an instant. Requests the Governor therefore to direct the English gentlemen at Azimabad to repair the ditch and to fortify the watch-houses. His reasons for writing to the Governor on the subject are as follows. The road by which the Mahrattas go to Nagpore is through the *ṣūbah*

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of Berar; and Nagpore is not more than 12 days' journey southward from the capital of Azimabad. Therefore if the Mahrattas come to Nagpore through the *ṣūbah* of Berar, they can perform 12 days' journey in 4 days on horseback. If the ditch is not set right and the watch-houses not fortified before their arrival, it will be very difficult to defend and protect the *ṣūbah*. Has formed a plan of taking the fort of Pulgaon as it lies on the route of the Mahrattas' coming from Nagpore. If that fort be in the hands of the Company, it may serve the purpose of a *chaukī* to stop the incursions of the Mahrattas. Hopes that by the blessing of God and the auspices of the Governor his plan will prove successful. Will send a detailed account later on. Thinks that the English gentlemen at Patna have also written to the Governor on the subject.

Trans. R., 1771, no 20, pp. 14-16. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 162.

Jan. 31.* **578.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy. Acknowledges the receipt of a present of 25 fresh pears in a sealed basket and says that before this he received two letters accompanying presents of pomegranates and apples.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 90, p. 33. Trans. I., 1771, no 11, p. 4. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 102.

Jan. 31. **579.** Passport granted to 'Abdu'r-Raḥmān. Let the *gumāshtahs* of *rāhdārs*, *guzarbāns* and watchmen of the places between Calcutta and Patna know that 'Abdu'r-Raḥmān a servant of Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah is going thither with broadcloth and other articles in a boat rowed by 7 sailors. They are directed positively to see that he is in no way obstructed in his passage but is allowed to pass safely.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 88, pp. 32-3.

Feb. 1. **580.** General Barker to Dhōndū Paṇḍit. Acknowledges the receipt of a letter from Raja Mādhū Rāo recommending that a passport be granted to the addressee who intends to make a pilgrimage to Kashi [Benares] along with other members of his family. Says in reply that he is going to Allahabad very soon. Should the addressee come there on a pilgrimage at a time when the writer is in the Royal Presence he will not require any passport nor will any body dare to molest him.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 17, p. 18.

Feb. 1. **581.** General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Acknowledges the receipt of his letter stating that the addressee was going to Lucknow, but hearing of the approach of the writer to the Karamnasa he has postponed his departure, as he has to discuss several questions with the writer personally; that if the writer cannot come to Faizabad he [the addressee] in company with Mr Harper will proceed to Benares to meet him; that he is waiting for the reply and will act as the writer advises him; and that Mr Harper will write to him in detail on other subjects.

Says in reply that from Mr Harper's letter it appears that the Mahrattas, the Rohillas and the Afghāns are disposed to come to an

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agreement. If these three people unite together serious trouble may arise. The writer has therefore determined to leave Buxar on 4 February and to reach Benares as soon as possible in order to discuss the present state of affairs with the addressee. Thinks that the situation of Benares is particularly favourable for effecting (if necessary) a combination of the armies belonging to the English and the addressee.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 18, p. 18.

Feb. 2. **582.** From the mother of Raja Tēj Chand. Says that her son Raja Tēj Chand, who is a child, has, through the auspicious favour of the Council and the Committee, been appointed to the *zamīndārī* of his deceased father. Birj Kishōr Rāy and others ignore the superiority of the Raja, and deliberately do such actions as occasion a great loss to the *sarkār* and ruin the *sarkār's* affairs. They are at enmity with all the members of her family, and refuse to regard a widow as their superior. Is unwilling to retain Birj Kishōr Rāy in the *Dīvānī* of Burdwan; wishes to appoint someone else of her own choice in his place. Sends Bābū Rām Chand, who is the brother of her deceased husband and a man of high abilities and good disposition, to the Governor. Requests that whatever he reports may be considered as emanating from her, and whatever he writes as flowing from her pen and therefore worthy to be believed. Hopes that the Governor out of his gracious bounty, which is ever towards her, will be pleased to issue a *parvānah* dismissing Birj Kishōr Rāy from the *Dīvānī* of Burdwan, ordering him at the same time to submit his accounts, and appointing in his place such person as her family may choose. Says that this change will tend to the advantage of her *zamīndārī*.

Trans. R., 1771, no 21, pp. 16, 17. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 165.

Feb. 2. **583.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 22, p. 17.

Feb. 2. **584.** General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Received his letter on 10 January. Had already sent him a letter on the 9th. The writer intended to see His Excellency at Benares, but having received a detailed account of the Mahratta army from his present letter he has postponed his visit. Approves of his going to Cawnpur on the Mahratta frontiers. Says that in compliance with the addressee's request he is hastening to him with all his forces to help him. If the combined army of the Mahrattas and Aḥmad Khān comes to Kora the addressee is not to give battle until the writer arrives.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 19, p. 20.

Feb. 3. **585.** General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received his letter. From the paper of news he has learnt all that is going on in that part of the country [Lucknow]. Has sent a reply to his previous letter which must have reached him. In that letter he has approved of the addressee's going to Cawnpur to settle the boundary

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disputes. The writer is speedily coming to Allahabad with his forces to help him. If the Mahrattas come to Kora with a large army the addressee should not fight until the writer arrives.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 20, p. 20.

Feb. 3. **586.** General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Has learnt from an authentic paper of news from the west that Aḥmad Khān has entered into an alliance with the Mahrattas and that the Rohillas are also to follow suit; and that they have all resolved to enter Kora. On hearing this he has at once set out with his army for Allahabad and is coming by forced marches. Observes with pain that the addressee for some time past has not informed him of the events in that quarter [Allahabad], nor has he received any *shuqqah* from His Majesty. Has sent an *'arẓī* to His Majesty informing him of his departure [from Buxar]. Requests the addressee to keep him always informed of all that is going on in that part of the country. This will greatly please the writer. Hopes to have the pleasure of an interview very soon.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 21, p. 22.

Feb. 3. **587.** General Barker to the King. Has learnt from the paper of news that Aḥmad Khān has made an alliance with the Mahrattas, that the Rohillas are about to do the same; and that the Mahrattas in company with the allies intend marching to Kora. On hearing this news His Majesty's loyal and faithful servant, the writer, at once set out with his army to oppose them and thus maintain the Royal honour and dignity. After punishing these turbulent folk he will have the honour of waiting upon His Majesty. Wonders why he has not been favoured with any *shuqqah* for some time, although serious events have been taking place in that part of the country. Hopes that this silence on the part of His Majesty does not mean anything but good. As the English *sardārs* consider the prosperity of the Royal affairs above everything, he set out at once, on hearing the news, with his army. Will shortly have the honour of kissing the Royal threshold.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 22, pp. 22-4.

Feb. 6.* **588.** To Nawab Ẓābiṭah Khān. Has learnt from the Royal *shuqqah* and the letter of His Excellency the Vazīr the sad news of the death of Nawab Najību'd-Daulah, the *Bakhshī* of the Empire. So great is his sorrow that both his pen and tongue lack the power to express it adequately. The loss of a chief who has always been a sincere well-wisher of His Majesty must necessarily cause the profoundest regret. But as there is no remedy against the decrees of Heaven, and death being inevitable, one must resign oneself to the will of God. Certainly the death of the late Nawab awoke the deepest sorrow, but the sight of a worthy successor like the addressee considerably mitigates it. Friends and strangers alike expect the addressee to keep alive the honour and dignity of the deceased Nawab and to leave behind a good name in the annals of history. Hopes he will keep up the friendly

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relations that subsisted between the late Nawab and the writer and will always correspond with him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 92, pp. 33-4. Trans. I., 1771, no 12, pp. 4, 5. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 107.

Feb. 6.* **589**. To Nawab Fatḥu'l-lah Khān, son of the late Nawab Dūndī Khān. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 93, p. 34. Trans. I., 1771, p. 5.

Feb. 6.* **590**. To Ghulām Ḥusain Khān. Acknowledges the receipt of his three letters since his arrival at Benares. Commends him for so promptly and readily supplying the writer with the news of all that happens. In the third letter the writer is advised to send a letter of condolence to Nawab Ẓābiṭah Khān and particularly to Fatḥu'l-lah Khān, son of the late Nawab Dūndī Khān, and it is urged that they would be much disappointed if they did not receive any such letter from him. Says in reply that if the addressee's argument is based on the general practice and a correct idea of the real sentiments of Fatḥu'l-lah Khān, was it not the latter's duty being a dependant of the Company to communicate to him (the writer) the death of his father? However he has not been unmindful of the great friendship that existed between the deceased and himself and had sent letters of condolence through Colonel Gailliez to both Ẓābiṭah Khān and Fatḥu'l-lah Khān prior to the receipt of the addressee's letter. Thanks him for reminding the writer of the necessity of maintaining friendly connections with these chiefs. Says with respect to the addressee's *jāgīr* that as he is not fully acquainted with the facts of the case he has written to the Chief of Patna to enquire into the nature of his claim and inform the writer of the result. If the claim appears to be valid the writer will certainly comply with his request. Asks the addressee to acquaint him with everything that may come to his knowledge from time to time.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 94, pp. 34-5. Trans. I., 1771, no 13, pp. 5, 6. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 99.

Feb. 6. **591**. General Barker to Raja Chait Singh. Has received his several letters conveying the news of his welfare together with the oranges he sent. As many important affairs claimed his attention he could not answer those letters earlier. His Excellency the Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah is coming down to Benares to meet the writer. He will shortly be there and will have the pleasure of seeing the addressee as well. Hopes that he will always correspond with the writer as before. This will greatly please him.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 23, p. 24.

Feb. 7. **592**. General Barker to Mādhū Rāo. Has understood all that the addressee has written about not interfering with Nāik Bhaṭ, Sēṭh, Shīvā Rām Panḍit, Harī Sakhājī and others who are all going on a pilgrimage

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to Prayag [Allahabad] and Kashi [Benares]. Incompetent *munshīs* have written :—'There should be no neglect nor delay in this matter ; the little that has been written here should be regarded as enough.' As the addressee is ignorant of the forms of address and etiquette observed in Persian letters he hopes strict orders will be given to *munshīs* not to use such expressions in future. The concessions that are allowed to pilgrims are a matter of favour and cannot be granted at the dictation of anybody. Hopes the addressee will think over the subject and will please the writer with letters.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 24, pp. 24-6.

Feb. 8 **593**. From the King. His Majesty has received the *'arzī* of his loyal servant, the Governor, stating that he has not for some time past received any Royal *shuqqahs* on the present state of affairs ; but hearing of the presumption of the faithless Mahrattas, he (the Governor) has ordered General Barker to march the English forces to the banks of the Karamnasa and to be in readiness there to repel, whenever occasion arises, the invaders of His Majesty's Empire. Says in reply that several *shuqqahs* have been sent to the Governor, the strong arm of the Empire, and it is probable that sooner or later he will receive them all. By the blessing of God, the fidelity, sincerity and loyalty of the Governor, His Majesty's invariable well-wisher, are engraved on his heart, and he is confident that his loyal servant, the Governor, will settle the affairs of the Empire and will root out the enemies of His Majesty's religion and prosperity. Some time ago a few Pindārās entered the *parganah* of Bhuttore, which is dependent on Kora, and established their *chaukī* there. On receiving information His Majesty despatched his victorious troops to expel these misguided wretches. On their arrival the men withdrew their *chaukī* and returned to their main body, and the Royal standards were hoisted there as before. The Mahratta *sardārs* are to all appearances as loyal and obedient to His Majesty's sacred mandates as ever. They have not as yet turned their attention to the dependencies of the Royal territory nor does it appear to be their intention to do so in the near future. The Governor of his own accord has already adopted measures to safeguard the Royal territory. His Majesty desires that he will continue to do so.

PS.—Thinks the plan of the Governor in despatching English forces and issuing orders to General Barker to halt at the Karamnasa for the business of the Royal *Sarkār* highly proper. Desires the Governor to repeat his orders to General Barker to remain in readiness at the Karamnasa, and, if the disturbers turn their attention to His Majesty's territory, to repair without delay to the sacred Presence the moment he is summoned.

Trans. R., 1771, no 23, pp. 17-19. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 155.

Feb. 8. **594**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẕim* of Behar. Sends a present of grapes.

Trans. R., 1771, no 24, p. 19.

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Feb. 8. **595.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a *qisṯ* of 1 *lākh* of rupees on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R., 1771, no 25, p. 19. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 164.

Feb. 8. **596.** From the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 26, p. 19.

Feb. 8. **597.** General Barker to Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has reached Buxar after a journey of two days from Dinapur. From Mr Harper's letter dated the 1st and received on the 8th of the English month it appears that the addressee is coming down to Benares to see him. The writer will therefore set out for Benares the next day, 23 *Shavvāl*, and expects to arrive there in three days employing a palanquin and a horse as his conveyances.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 25, p. 26.

Feb. 8. **598.** General Barker to Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received his letter. Is happy to learn that he is well. Pressure of work prevented him from answering his letters earlier. Now that the writer is at leisure he hopes that the addressee will gratify him by sending him accounts of his health until he has the pleasure of a personal meeting.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 26, pp. 26-8.

Feb. 9. **599.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Says that 'today' which is Monday, 28 January, there has arrived a paper of news to the following effect. On the 23rd a person named Gangā Singh, who was a Raja, came to the *kachehrī* to settle accounts with Khwājah Sayyid Muḥammad Khān, the *Faujdār* of Kora, when some harsh and disagreeable words passed between them. The Khān wanted to put him in confinement and send him to Captain Brooke, whereupon the Raja's people fell upon the Khān with sabres in the *kachehrī* and slew him. A moment later the Khān's people had killed the Raja. Then the Raja's men were for plundering the servants of the *Faujdār*, but by this time the news had reached Captain Brooke, who set out with a body of sepoys to attack them. On seeing the Captain's determination they at once made off. Has written this for the information of the Governor.

Trans. R., 1771, no 27, pp. 19, 20. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 162.

Feb. 9. **600.** To Munnī Bēgam. Has received her letter. Is glad to learn that she is keeping good health and praying for the writer's welfare. Says in reply that by the grace of God things are getting on well with him. Hopes to hear from her every now and then.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 91, p. 33.

Feb. 10. **601.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a present of cloths.

Trans. R., 1771, no 28, p. 20.

Feb. 10. **602.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Sends a present of pears.

Trans. R., 1771, no 29, p. 20.

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Feb. 11. **603**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Sends a present of pomegranates.

Trans. R., 1771, no 30, p. 20.

Feb. 12. **604**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Has already informed His Excellency that he has left the Presence in order to proceed to Faizabad for an interview with Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. On 23 January he took leave of the Vazīr to return to His Majesty; arrived at Allahabad on the 29th, paid his respects at the Presence and received the honours customary on such occasions. Is of opinion that His Majesty will by no means act contrary to the advice of the Governor, nor will transact anything without the latter's knowledge and satisfaction. Assures the Governor that he is always firm in his loyalty to His Majesty, and in his friendship and good wishes for the English Company. Encloses some papers of news which he has received concerning the Mahratta *sardārs*. Will continue to send any intelligence that he may receive to the Governor. The Vazīr has left Faizabad for Lucknow, as the Governor must have learnt from the letters of Captain Harper. Says that up to the time of writing this letter the affairs between the Rohillas and the Mahrattas have not been settled. Will send without delay an account of the terms they may arrive at. Encloses an account of the terms settled with Aḥmad Khān. Is impatient to hear news of the Governor's welfare.

Trans. R., 1771, no 31, pp. 20-1. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 157.

Feb. 12. **605**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Encloses papers of news relative to the Mahratta camp. Rām Chandar Ganēsh has sent Fārū Paṇḍit with directions to Takōjī Hulkar to dismiss Ẓābiṭah Khān from the army. If Ẓābiṭah Khān leaves, Vīsājī Paṇḍit will remain with the forces; otherwise the latter will return to the Deccan. It is reported that Vīsājī Paṇḍit will quit the army 'tomorrow.' He only awaits a reply from Takōjī. Vīsājī wishes that Ẓabiṭah Khān should either leave the camp or pay a *nazrānah* of 25 *lākhs* on becoming *Bakhshī*. Vīsājī is strongly opposed to Ẓābiṭah Khān's succeeding his father, seeing that he has rendered no conspicuous services to the Empire. All the officers of the army are Vīsājī Paṇḍit's friends and uphold his views. They consider Rām Chandar Ganēsh a fool. All this is due to the instigation of Mādhōjī Sindia. Vīsājī Paṇḍit and Mādhōjī Sindia wish to prevent Takōjī Hulkar from accepting the terms offered by the Rohillas, and to make Aḥmad Khān *Bakhshī*, for he has promised them a sum of money as soon as he is appointed. As soon as they have done this, they propose to set out for Kanar Manikpore to negotiate with His Majesty. If he comes over to their side and gives up Kanar Manikpore, they will administer the Empire as His Majesty may direct. But if he does not accede to their request, they will carry out the designs of Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān. Rām Chandar Ganēsh is disgusted with these machinations and is staying at his encampment, expecting the arrival of Takōjī. Advice has been received 'today' that Takōjī is at a distance of 6 *kōs*. It is reported that the Mahrattas intend to write to Ẓābiṭah Khān to set out for Shahjahanabad. They wish to establish either Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān or Aḥmad Khān (or anybody else who

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will give them money) at the capital. Their first and foremost object appears to be the dismissal of Ẓābiṭah Khān. Rām Chandar Ganēsh has had an interview with Takōjī Hulkar, and now appears very much dejected. The affairs of Aḥmad Khān have been settled for 10 *lākhs* of rupees, and those of Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān for 12 *lākhs*. On 27 January, early in the morning, Rām Chandar Ganēsh gave the signal for marching. He mounted his elephant about 7 o'clock, marched 5 *kōs* and pitched his tents in the village of Moyhassi 'Yesterday' was the date fixed upon for setting out for the Deccan, but Rām Chandar Ganēsh has changed his mind, and thinks it unwise to start without taking the advice of Mādhū Rāo. Some say he is going to Shahjahanabad, some to the country of Raja Nul Singh, others to the Deccan. No reliance can be placed on these reports and no one can tell his intention until he sets out for one of these places. If he sets out for Etawa that is the road to the Deccan; if for Moinpore that is the way to Shahjahanabad. Dated Jan. 26.

Trans. R., 1771, no 32, pp. 21-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 157.

Feb. 16. **606.** From Munīru'd-Daulah. Received on 21 January the Governor's letter enclosing *'arẓīs* from himself and Raja Tēj Chand, both of which he presented to His Majesty with 101 gold mohurs as the Governor desired. Forwards a Royal *shuqqah* in answer to the Governor's letter. Says that agreeably to His Majesty's orders and the request of his friend, the Governor, a *sanad* and titles for Raja Tēj Chand, similar to that which his deceased father held, are being prepared and will be forwarded to the Governor in ten or twelve days through Colonel Gailliez. Is the Governor's *Vakīl* and *Nāib* in the enlightened Presence, and is ready to carry out all his orders promptly. Says that His Majesty and the Governor are really one soul in two bodies. His Majesty's chief desire is to satisfy the Governor and the English *sardārs*. The terms of peace have not yet been settled between the Rohillas and the Mahrattas; when they are settled, a detailed account will be sent to the Governor. Is always anxious to hear the news of the Governor's welfare and prosperity.

Trans. R., 1771, no 33, pp. 23-4.

Feb. 16. **607.** From Munīru'd-Daulah. Forwards a paper of news concerning the camps of Rām Chandar Ganēsh, Mādhōjī Sindia and Vīsājī Pandit. The troops under the command of Rām Chandar Ganēsh and Vīsājī Pandit have arrived at Eliabad, which is within 7 *kōs* of Moinpore. They have quitted the route to Etawa. It is now clear that they intend to march to the capital. Mādhōjī Sindia has sent a person to Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān and also to Aḥmad Khān with the following message :—' We have consented to the terms of your treaty and have quitted your country. We are bent upon marching to the capital and have therefore recalled Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān. If you wish to get the appointment of *Bakhshī*, you may join us with five or six thousand Afghāns and with the same number of Rohillas. We have written to Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān at Ajmer to come as quickly as possible. We are going to the banks of the Jumna and will cross it

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at the *ghāṭ* of Mathra. "Tomorrow" is the date fixed for our march to Moinpore.'

Trans. R., 1771, no 34, pp. 24-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 157.

Feb. 16. **608.** From the King. His Majesty has received the *'arzī* of his faithful servant, the Governor, forwarding an application from Raja Tēj Chand, son of Raja Tilōk Chand deceased, for a *sanad* and titles, and recommending that as the Raja is an adherent of the English Company, His Majesty of his gracious bounty may be pleased to confer on him the honours of his deceased father. Says in reply that His Majesty is ever sensible of the loyalty and attachment of his faithful servant the Governor, and is perfectly satisfied with him. His Majesty has directed his loyal minister Munīru'd-Daulah to prepare the *sanad*, title etc. for the said Raja and to send them to the Governor, the strong pillar of the throne. His Majesty is ever anxious to hear news of the welfare of the Governor, who is always in his memory.

Trans. R., 1771, no 35, pp. 25-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 155.

Feb. 16. **609.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a present of sugar, rose-water etc. on the occasion of his wedding.

Trans. R., 1771, no 36, p. 26. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 164.

Feb. 16. **610.** From the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received the Governor's letter stating that he has ordered General Barker to march to the Karamnasa, and should the need arise, to join the writer in suppressing the disturbances of the Mahrattas. Is very glad to learn this. Says that as no distinction or difference exists between him and the writer, he trusts that their friendship will daily increase and tend to the advantage of the public. Hopes that by the blessing of God their joint endeavours will bring the affairs of the Empire to a satisfactory state, and that His Majesty's enemies will receive proper punishment. How can he describe the friendship and regard that his friend, the Governor, has at heart for him? May the Almighty preserve the Governor in all his goodness! Assures the Governor that he is likewise at all times and on all occasions persevering in his friendship with the English *sardārs*. Says that he had been intending to proceed to the boundaries of his country, but on hearing of General Barker's advance to the Karamnasa he postponed it and set out on 1 February for Benares to consult with him personally on all questions affecting the Empire and to make plans for the future. Is impatient to hear the news of the Governor's welfare.

Trans. R., 1771, no 37, pp. 26-7. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 167.

Feb. 16. **611.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has already sent all the intelligence he had received relative to the Mahrattas for the Governor's information. Has received 'today,' Wednesday, 6 February, a paper of news to the following effect. The Mahrattas have arrived in the neighbourhood of Moinpore. It is reported that they are going to Shahjahanabad, but this is not yet confirmed.

Trans. R., 1771, no 38, p. 27. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 162.

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Feb. 16. **612**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Sends a present of pears.

Trans. R., 1771, no 39, p. 27.

Feb. 16. **613**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Has already sent several letters enclosing some papers of news relative to the Mahrattas, Aḥmad Khān and the Rohillas. Hopes the Governor has received them all. Has pleasure in enclosing another paper of news which he has just received from the Mahratta camp. Will hereafter send whatever intelligence he receives for the information of the Governor. In conclusion offers thanks.

Trans. R., 1771, no 40, pp. 27-8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 157.

Feb. 16. **614**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Encloses a paper of news to the following effect. Takōjī Hulkar has not yet joined his forces with those of Rām Chandar Ganēsh; but it is reported that he has dismissed Ẓābiṭah Khān from the army. The Mahratta *sardārs* have now decided to march to the capital. It is said that the *ghāṭ* of Mathra, which is 35 *kōs* away from their present station, is the place fixed for the troops to cross the Jumna. Rām Chandar Ganēsh has declared that if Mādhōjī Sindia summons Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān without his consent to the Mahratta camp, he will dismiss the Khān in the same way as Mādhōjī Sindia dismissed Ẓābiṭah Khān. Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān and Mihrbān Khān are still in the Mahratta camp.

Trans. R., 1771, no 41, p. 28. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 157.

Feb. 16.[1] **615**. To Raja Tēj Chand. At the recommendation of the writer His Majesty has been pleased to confer on the addressee the honours and titles of his late father. The Royal *shuqqah*, in reply to the addressee's letter to His Majesty, is enclosed herein. The *sanad* and titles are being prepared in the Royal court and are expected shortly. They will be sent to him as soon as they are received. Advises the addressee to express his gratitude to His Majesty for those gifts.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 98, p. 36. Trans. I., 1771, no 14, p. 7.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 103.

Feb. 16. **616**. General Barker to the King. Acknowledges the receipt of the Royal *shuqqah*. Is extremely sorry to hear that the Mahrattas have been creating disturbances at Shahjahanabad. Has long been pondering some means of stemming the torrent. Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah and Ēlich Khān will have the honour to represent to His Majesty the means agreed upon in consultation with His Excellency the Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Hopes His Majesty will listen to the sound and loyal advice of His Excellency if he is bent on marching towards the capital.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 27, p. 28.

Feb. 17. **617**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Says that His Majesty repeatedly pressed him and directed him to transact the business of the Royal *Sarkār*. But keeping in view the bad times and the disordered state

[1] Feb. 18 according to the volume of copies.

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of the Royal House, he would not consent to it. On Monday, 4 February, His Majesty of his unlimited bounty was pleased to honour him with *khal'at*, jewels, elephant, horse etc. and to appoint him Manager of the Royal House as before. Has written this for His Excellency's information. His Majesty, agreeably to the writer's representations, has recalled Bahādur 'Alī Khān and Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān from the Mahratta camp. As soon as they arrive at Allahabad, he will inform the Governor of it. His Majesty consents to and approves of all the representations of the Governor, and the writer is determined to bring the affairs of His Majesty's Royal House to a satisfactory state. Is always thinking of His Excellency. Is his well-wisher as also of the Company. Begs the Governor to make him happy by his commissions in that quarter [Allahabad].

Trans. R., 1771, no 42, pp. 28-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 157.

Feb. 18. **618**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy. Is delighted to receive fifty seedless and forty granulated pomegranates. Offers thanks. Hopes the addressee will always correspond with the writer who is ever anxious to hear of his welfare.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 97, pp. 35-6.

Feb. 19. **619**. From the King. Informs the Governor that notwithstanding the remonstrances of Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah, His Majesty has appointed him to manage the affairs of the Empire and the business of the Royal House. Desires the Governor to write to Mr Middleton and Nawab Muḥammad Riẓā Khān to remit to the Presence through Munīru'd-Daulah the *qists* of the Royal tribute. This will tend to His Majesty's satisfaction.

Trans. R., 1771, no 43, p. 29. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 155.

Feb. 19. **620**. The King to the Gentlemen of the Council. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 44, p. 29. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 155.

Feb. 19. **621**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has 'to-day' received a paper of news to the following effect. The Mahrattas set out on Friday, 25 January, and have arrived in the neighbourhood of Moinpore. It appears from another paper of news that the terms of peace have not yet been settled between the Rohillas and the Mahrattas, and the delay is due to want of unanimity among the Mahratta *sardārs*. The Mahrattas set out and two days ago arrived at Shaikhabad on this side of Akbarabad. Has written this for His Excellency's information.

Trans. R., 1771, no 45, pp. 29, 30. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 162.

Feb. 19. **622**. General Barker to Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān. Having heard of the transcendent personal qualities of the addressee the writer's heart longs always to see him. But as time does not permit this, he passes on to a more important matter, conducive to public prosperity. It is well

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known that the Mahrattas have been creating disturbances in the whole of Hindustan and particularly in the neighbourhood of the capital [Shahjahanabad], and the lives and property of the people are at stake. It has now become necessary to devise some plan for extirpating these turbulent folk. After a long conference with Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah on this subject it has been decided that the Nawab should proceed to the frontiers of his own territories and the addressee should come forward to pay him a visit and discuss the question of exterminating this powerful faction [the Mahrattas]. Hopes he will communicate to the writer the result of his visit. The decision arrived at during his conference with Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah has been confided to Nawab Bahāu'd-Daulah who will explain it fully to the addressee. The English *sardārs* and His Majesty alike desire the writer to take such measures as will put an end to these disturbances. Hopes the addressee will bring up his Afghān troops promptly and co-operate with the Vazīr in this expedition. The writer will use his best endeavours to prevail upon His Majesty to join hands with them.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 28, pp. 28-30.

Feb. 19. **623.** General Barker to Ẓābiṭah Khān. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 29, pp. 30-2.

Feb. 19. **624.** General Barker to Aḥmad Khān, Dūndī Khān and Faiẓu'l-lah Khān. To the same effect.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 30, pp. 32-4.

Feb. 20. **625.** From Munīru'd-Daulah. Has written several letters enclosing some papers of news, which, he hopes, have reached the Governor safely. The Vazīr has left Faizabad for Benares to have an interview with General Barker. He has written requesting Ēlich Khān and the writer to take leave of His Majesty and to repair to Benares. Accordingly the writer left the Royal Presence and in company with Ēlich Khān crossed the river on Friday, 8 February, on his way to Benares. Has represented to His Majesty the faithlessness of the Mahrattas. His Majesty duly weighed the writer's representations and read His Excellency's *'arẓī* three or four times over and has postponed his resolution of marching to the capital. Has informed the Governor in his last letter that Bahādur 'Alī Khān and Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān have been recalled from the Mahratta camp. Says that as soon as it was known that His Majesty would not proceed to Delhi discord broke out among the Mahratta *sardārs*. Takōjī has sided with Rām Chandar Ganēsh. Ẓābiṭah Khān and the Vazīr are firm in their loyalty to His Majesty and in their attachment to the English *sardārs*. Mādhōjī Sindia and Vīsājī Paṇḍit are inseparable. They are at enmity with Ẓābiṭah Khān and the Vazīr, and are far from being obedient to His Majesty. It was on this account that they did not settle the terms of peace with Aḥmad Khān and the Rohillas but returned to Coole. Mādhōjī Sindia and the other Mahratta *sardārs* have sent for Ghāziu'd-Dīn

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Khān and propose to advance to the capital to place another king on the throne. They also propose to appoint Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān Vazīr and Aḥmad Khān *Bakhshī* of the Empire, and then to unite together and settle the affairs of Hindustan. His Majesty has suspended his Royal resolution of marching to the capital agreeably to the representations of the writer. If the Mahrattas carry out their designs, it will be a great catastrophe and will reflect very badly on the conduct of the Vazīr and the English *sardārs* and occasion His Majesty's displeasure with the writer. Since, by the blessing of God, the Governor is endowed with wisdom, penetration, foresight and a keen discrimination, he requests him to communicate without delay his advice and opinion on the present crisis to the Vazīr, to General Barker and the writer, so that they may act accordingly. There is an old saying that 'Prevention is better than cure.' Says that Tarmuk Dās, *Vakīl* of His Excellency Shujā'u'd-Daulah, wrote to his master these facts, which the writer now communicates for the information of the Governor. The Vazīr wrote in reply to Tarmuk Dās that as the Mahrattas entertain evil intentions, his remaining with them is no longer of any advantage, and has directed him to come away. Will communicate other facts hereafter.

Trans. R., 1771, no 46, pp. 30-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 157.

Feb. 21. **626**. From Ghulām Ḥusain Khān. Being a well-wisher of His Excellency he thinks it his duty to communicate to him all news that he receives. As soon as the terms of peace with the Rohillas are settled, the Mahrattas intend to come to this quarter [Shahjahanabad]. Rām Chandar Ganēsh has on every head satisfied Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān. A few gentlemen, who to outward appearances are His Excellency's friends, are not really so at heart. Has written to Nawab 'Abdu'l-Aḥad Khān, who is his friend and is at present with Ẓābiṭah Khān, to inform him of all the news of that quarter [Najibabad]. Will forward to the Governor all news that he receives, and will acquaint him with other facts hereafter.

Trans. R., 1771, no 47, p. 32. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 154.

Feb. 22. **627**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Forwards agreeably to the Governor's directions the *parvānah* he wrote to the Director of the French company, and the reply he received from that gentleman. Requests the Governor to give such instructions as appear to him advisable and he will act accordingly.

Trans. R., 1771, no 48, p. 33. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 158.

Feb. 22. **628**. Muḥammad Riẓā Khān to Monsieur Chevalier, Director of the French company. Has repeatedly written to the addressee that *Niẓāmat* officials have been stationed at the *chaukī* at Kalpi to search the ships of the Europeans; that his friend, the Director, should prevent the French ships coming to this side of Kalpi without being searched; and that he should issue directions to the captains, pilots and the other officers of the vessels of the French company on the subject. Understands from Riẓā Qulī Khān and others stationed at Kalpi that

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captains and officers of French ships that arrive at the *chaukī*, neither allow their ships to be searched nor pay any attention to the orders of the *Nizāmat*. This is very improper. Warns him therefore that if in obedience to the orders of the *Nizāmat* he does not issue instructions to captains and officers of French ships to undergo the search, serious steps will be taken to enforce the orders. Dated 20 December 1770.

Trans. R., 1771, no 48A, pp. 33-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 158.

Feb. 22. **629.** Monsieur Chevalier, Director of the French company, to Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has been honoured by the receipt of His Excellency's *parvānah* directing the writer to allow the ships to be searched at the *chaukī* at Kalpi. Prior to this he had received several *parvānahs* on the subject, and in answer to them said what he had to say. Has nothing further to add in answer to the present *parvānah*.

Trans. R., 1771, no 48B, p. 34. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 158.

Feb. 22. **630**. From the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Arrived at Benares and on 11 February held a conference with General Barker on political affairs. What has happened up to now is this : the Mahrattas leaving unsettled the terms of peace with the Rohillas, have gone towards Shahjahanabad. Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, who is with the Mahrattas representing His Majesty, is responsible for this move of theirs. The opposing party, Rām Chandar Ganēsh, Mādhōjī Sindia and Visājī Paṇḍit, have sent for Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān and Qāsim 'Alī Khān. They have resolved to proceed to Shahjahanabad and place another king on the throne. Ẓābiṭah Khān is not yet a party to the league. Takōjī Hulkar to all appearances depends in all his undertakings on Ẓābiṭah Khān. Great disturbances are on foot and the Mahrattas entertain evil intentions. This is a great catastrophe so far as the writer and his friend, the Governor, are concerned. It is evident that as soon as they appoint another king, two difficulties will present themselves. First, they will subjugate the countries in that quarter [Shahjahanabad], collect forces and draw the *sardārs* of Hindustan to their side. Secondly, they will plan to attack the writer and his friend, the Governor. If the Mahrattas appoint another king either with the consent of His Majesty Shah 'Ālam or of their own accord, it will be a misfortune for both the writer and his friend the Governor. By the blessing of God the friendship that subsists between the writer and the English *sardārs* is known to the world ; and the honourable character of the English *sardārs* is likewise manifest to the public. If therefore the writer and the English *sardārs* do not offer any opposition, what will the world think of them ? Keeping in view the welfare of the public and the interest of himself and his friend the Governor, he has sent a detailed account of the crisis. Has likewise written to General Barker, who will also communicate with the Governor on the subject. Although very little time is left, yet he hopes that even now it may not be too late to crush the Mahrattas. But if this opportunity is lost, nothing can be effected hereafter ; time is like an arrow, once shot from a bow it can never be recalled. Advises the Governor to join forces with the writer. By the blessing of God there is not a single Rohilla or

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Afghān who is not attached to the Governor. Promises to act as a vanguard of the Governor provided the English forces join him, and hopes to bring all the affairs of Hindustan to a satisfactory conclusion. Is the Governor's friend and ally at all times and on all occasions, and his honour is bound up with that of the Governor. There can by no means exist any difference between them. Is staying at Benares in expectation of an answer from the Governor. Will act as the Governor advises him.

Trans. R., 1771, no 49, pp. 34-7. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 167.

Feb. 25. **631**. To Ghulām Husain Khān. Has received his letter reporting all that has happened in that quarter [Shahjahanabad] and the recovery of Nawab Dūndī Khān from his illness. Is very glad to learn all this. What the addressee has written about hypocrisy in friends is not at all surprising, for selfishness is the characteristic feature of the people of the day. Hopes that by the blessing of God the countenances of foes will be darkened and the sincerity of friends soon shine forth. Has learnt from the paper of news all that is going on in that part of the country [Shahjahanabad] and expects to be similarly informed of all that happens in future. Is greatly pleased to hear that the news of the death of Nawab Dūndī Khān is false. Has written to Colonel Gailliez not to send the letter of condolence to Fathu'l-lah Khān, son of the said Nawab. Desires the addressee to bring this, if necessary, to the notice of the Nawab.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 100, p. 37. Trans. I., 1771, no 15, pp. 7, 8. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 99.

Feb. 26. **632**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has already informed the Governor that the Mahrattas have arrived at Shergunge, which is at a distance of two *kōs* on this side of Shahjahanabad. Thinks that they have not yet crossed the Jumna. Saifu'd-Dīn Muhammad Khān has been residing with them for the last two months to conduct some negotiations on behalf of His Majesty. They have sent him into the city [Shahjahanabad] to proclaim His Majesty king. Accordingly on 7 February Saifu'd-Dīn Muhammad Khān went to the place appointed for the religious worship of the Moors, sent for Mīr Ābidu'l-lah, brother of Mūsavī Khān, and directed him to proclaim His Majesty king in the city and to demand the surrender of the fort. He [Saifu'd-Dīn Muhammad Khān] stationed a Moghal and a trooper at the entrance of every alley in the city. The Bēgam refused to deliver up the fort. Qāsim Ālī-Khān, who resides in the fort as a representative of Zābitah Khān, is determined to defend it. 'Today', 18 February, there has arrived a paper of news dated the 8th, to the effect that the Mahrattas are bombarding the fort. Has written this for His Excellency's information.

Trans. R., 1771, no 50, pp. 37-8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 162.

Feb. 26. **633**. General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received his letter in which a Royal *shuqqah* and a letter from Mahāmu'd-Daulah Mr Cartier were enclosed. Is very glad to learn the contents. From

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Mr Cartier's letter it appears that whatever the addressee has written to him is just and proper. Hopes he will always correspond with the writer till they meet. This will greatly please him.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 31, p. 34.

Feb. 27. **634**. General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. One Ḥaidar Bēg was some time ago in the service of His Excellency the Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah in the capacity of an *'āmil* of some *parganah*. He was afterwards dismissed on a charge of embezzlement. It has now come to the knowledge of the writer that His Majesty has summoned him to the Presence and intends to appoint him *'āmil* in the *chaklah* of Kora. Is surprised at His Majesty's showing such utter disregard of His Excellency's feelings. If His Majesty is disposed to make a new arrangement in Kora he can do it better by appointing some one from amongst the nobles in the Royal Court. Has learnt that Madāru'd-Daulah and Ēlich Khān have left His Excellency. It is presumed that they must have reached Allahabad to lay the matter before His Majesty. Hopes that they will impress upon His Majesty how faithful and loyal His Excellency is, and that he may be dissuaded from appointing Ḥaidar Bēg and may also be convinced that His Excellency and the writer are for ever working for the prosperity of the throne.

The addressee has asked if the present occasion is suitable for sending the receipt for the balance of the Bengal tribute. The writer thinks that it is. The spring harvest is over and the collection of revenue is in full swing; he will be able therefore to obtain the money on the strength of the said receipt and despatch it to the addressee.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 32, pp. 34-6.

Feb. 27.[1] **635**. To Raja Tēj Chand. Is pleased to receive the present of winter cloths for himself and his wife through Gaurī Malik. Offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 95, p. 35. Trans. I., 1771, no 16, p. 8.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 104.

Feb. 27.[1] **636**. To the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 96, p. 35. Trans. I., 1771, no 17, p. 8.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 97.

Mar. 1. **637**. To Munīru'd-Daulah. Has received his letter intimating that he arrived at Allahabad, had an audience with the King and had the pleasure of meeting His Excellency the Vazīr. Is glad to learn all this. From the paper of news the writer has learnt all that is going on in that part of the country [Allahabad] and expects to be similarly acquainted with the character and intention of the enemies of religion and empire [the Mahrattas]. The writer is always anxious to know about his welfare and hopes he will frequently have letters from him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 99, p. 36. Trans. I., 1771, no 18, pp. 8, 9.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 100.

[1] Feb. 12 according to the volume of copies.

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Mar. 2. **638**. To Munīru'd-Daulah. Acknowledges with thanks the receipt of a present of pomegranates.

Trans. I., 1771, no 19, p. 9. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 100.

Mar. 3. **639**. From Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. Has already written several letters and hopes the Governor has received them all. Says that the Vazīr had set out for Benares to meet General Barker, when the writer, with the advice of Captain Harper, went to Phulpore, which is 10 *kōs* from Benares, and had an interview with His Highness on 8 February. His Highness honoured the writer by conferring on him a *khal'at, jāgīr, sarpēch* and a sword. On 9 February 'we' pitched 'our' tents at Benares. The writer also went 12 *kōs* to meet General Barker, who was on his way to this place, and arrived here on the 10th. 'To-day' which is the 11th, His Highness and General Barker took up their residence in Benares. As the Governor countenanced and raised his servant, the writer, to his present position, he therefore thinks it necessary to inform him of all the facts.

Trans. R., 1771, no 51, pp. 38-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 161.

Mar. 3. **640**. From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Acknowledges the receipt of the Governor's letter enclosing a *shuqqah* from His Majesty, conferring on him the honours and titles which his deceased father held. In reply expresses gratitude for the Governor's friendship and favour and his fidelity and attachment to the English Company.

Trans. R., 1771, no 52, p. 39. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 165.

Mar. 3. **641**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Mr Jekyll is going to Azimabad. The addressee is asked to pay him every attention.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 101, p. 37. Trans. I., 1771, no 20, p. 9. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 103.

Mar. 4. **642**. From Jasārat Khān, *Nāib Nāzim* of Dacca. Commends the family of Shukru'l-lah, the late *Jam'adār* of the Dacca factory, to the Governor's favour and protection.

Trans. R., 1771, no 53, p. 39.

Mar. 6. **643**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Sends a present of pomegranates.

Trans. R., 1771, no 54, p. 39.

Mar. 6. **644**. From Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. Has already informed the Governor that His Highness the Vazīr and General Barker arrived at Benares and the writer had an interview with them. On 20 February His Highness the Vazīr, having in view the bounty of His Excellency the Governor and the favour of General Barker towards the writer, honoured him with a visit at his house at Ramnagar, when he in turn performed the duties of vassalage with presents of money, elephants, horses, jewels and cloths. The Vazīr fastened his own turban on the writer's head, and at the time of his departure honoured

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him with a sword. On 21 February the Vazīr set out for Phumpole Ghat. The General is encamped at Benares and manifests every favour and kindness to the writer.

Trans. R., 1771, no 55, pp. 39, 40. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 161.

Mar. 6. **645**. From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a *qist* of Rs 1,33,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R., 1771, no 56, p. 40. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 165.

Mar. 6. **646**. From the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 57, p. 40.

Mar. 6. **647**. From the Vazīr Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Stayed at Benares for 10 days and had an interview with General Barker. By the blessing of God 'our' mutual friendship has gained increasing strength, and the writer has derived the greatest happiness from meeting the General. His Excellency has no doubt learnt from General Barker's letter of the conference that took place between the writer and the General and the questions that were discussed on the occasion. Believes the General has communicated to the addressee news of the capital and of the Mahrattas and has sent him copies of the Royal *shuqqahs* which have been privately issued from the Presence to the Mahrattas. Seeing the disturbed state of Shahjahanabad and the mismanagement of affairs in the Presence, the writer thought it advisable to proceed to the confines of his territory and to have an interview with the Rohilla *sardārs*. He accordingly set out on 21 February. As soon as he arrives at the confines of his territory, he will hold a conference with the Rohillas and ask their advice. Will inform the Governor of the negotiations.

Trans. R., 1771, no 58, pp. 40-1. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 167.

Mar. 6. **648**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Mahdī 'Alī Khān brother of Asadu'l-lah Khān has been given 3 years' leave with permission to make a pilgrimage to Mecca. During his absence the addressee is to pay his *vakīl* the annual stipend of Rs 30,000 granted to him by Nawab Ṣābit Jang Bahādur [Lord Clive] in consideration of his meritorious services under the Company. Has also written to Mr Alexander to whom a reference may be made if necessary.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 102, p. 37. Trans. I., 1771, no 21, p. 9. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 103.

Mar. 7. **649**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has already informed the Governor that the Mahrattas have arrived within two *kōs* of Shahjahanabad; that they sent Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān into the city to proclaim His Majesty king; that Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān proceeded to the place of religious worship of the Moors and sent for the brother of Mūsavī Khān for the purpose; and that the Bēgam refused to surrender the fort to the Mahrattas, who

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then began to bombard it. 'To-day' which is 5 March, a *harkārah* of the writer's has brought a paper of news to the following effect. The Mahrattas made a breach in the rampart of the fort, and Qāsim 'Alī Khān, who was commanding its artillery, declared he could no longer defend it. Accordingly on 10 February the fort fell into the hands of the Mahrattas, and a *sardār* with 5,000 horse entered the capital.

PS.—Has received from the Presence a paper of news to the following effect. On 15 February the Mahratta *sardārs* took the Shāhzādah to the place of the religious worship of the Moors, where he said prayers. They attended his retinue, seated him on a cushion, presented him their *nazr*, professed their allegiance to His Majesty and ordered a *sardār* with 1,000 horse to attend upon his person in the fort. They then set out for Talcatorah.

Trans. R., 1771, no 59, pp. 41-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 162.

Mar. 7. **650**. General Barker to the King. Has received the Royal *shuqqah* intimating his approval of the plan decided upon for the good administration of the empire. Says in reply that if His Majesty takes any other course but the one suggested, it will, in the opinion of the writer, inevitably bring ruin and dishonour to the house of Tīmūr. His Majesty must not trust people who are at heart enemies of the empire and have no regard for him. They cherish selfish motives while professing to work for the glory and prosperity of the house of Tīmūr. They look to their own interests and consolidate their own power in order to bring the whole of Hindustan under their sway. Being a loyal and faithful servant of His Majesty the writer prays him to be on his guard against these wicked people. It appears from one or two sentences of the Royal *shuqqah* that His Majesty does not suspect them. In one sentence he says 'We are at liberty to exalt anyone of the Mahratta or Rohilla tribe who submits to us and punish those who do not acknowledge our authority.' In another he writes 'If, which God forbid, this business [the march to Shahjahanabad] is delayed, we shall be obliged to take such steps as seem to us advisable.' The writer earnestly desires His Majesty to give up the idea of exalting the Mahrattas, otherwise it will be impossible for his faithful servants in the Royal Court and for the writer to live in peace. The Vazīr is firm in his loyalty to His Majesty and is confident of success in the service of the Royal *Sarkār*. He has set out for the frontiers of his territories in order to hold a conference with Ḥāfiẓu'l-Mulk. It is hoped that His Majesty will approve of all that the Vazīr and Ḥāfiẓu'l-Mulk may devise for the prosperity of the throne. He has gone with the sole object of compassing the good administration of the empire, leaving his family under the protection and care of the English *sardārs*.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 33, pp. 36-40.

Mar. 7. **651**. General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Is delighted to receive his letter enclosing the receipt for the balance of the Bengal tribute and two Royal *shuqqahs* addressed to Mr Cartier. Has sent the *shuqqahs*

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to Calcutta and expects the money in a few days. Will despatch it to the addressee as soon as it is received. Is very glad to hear from the addressee's letter that the story about Ḥaidar Bēg is absolutely false. The addressee complains that he has not received any reply to some of his complimentary letters with which he sent presents of fruits. The writer says that he received all the letters, but did not send any replies thinking that none was needed. Is greatly pleased to learn from a previous *shuqqah** that His Majesty has approved of the proposed plan. The writer again sent an *'arẓī* to His Majesty on 15 *Zu'l-q'adah*. It is no doubt known to the addressee what it was about. Has just received a letter from the Vazīr saying that he is determined to carry out the plan decided upon, and will not in the least deviate from it. Observes with pain that His Majesty is carrying on negotiations with the Mahrattas through Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad K͟hān. The Vazīr has gone with the express object of setting right His Majesty's state affairs, and it is now necessary to make him happy. This may appropriately be done by stopping the negotiations with the Mahrattas that are carried on through the said K͟hān. Rām Chandar Ganēsh, Takōjī, Vīsājī and Sindia should be informed that His Majesty has delegated the authority to the Vazīr in order to carry on negotiations with them. They should listen to him and should not believe in what Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad K͟hān says. Desires the addressee to forward the *shuqqahs* to the writer who will despatch them to the said persons.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 34, pp. 40-2.

Mar. 7. **652**. General Barker to Najaf K͟hān. Has received his letter conveying a present of Kabul fruits. During the past few days was so busily engaged that he had little time to reply to the K͟hān's previous letter. All that Colonel Gailliez has said of the writer's friendly sentiments towards the K͟hān is true. One must feel for a friend alike in his presence and in his absence. Hopes he will always have letters from the K͟hān.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 35, p. 42.

Mar. 9. **653**. From Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. A duplicate copy of his letter dated 6 March 1771. (*See above* no 644.)

Trans. R., 1771, no 60, p. 43.

Mar. 9. **654**. To Munīru'd-Daulah. Has received his letter together with a present of pomegranates. Offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 103, pp. 37-8. Trans. I., 1771, no 22, p. 10.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 100.

Mar. 10. **655**. From Munn(ī) Bēgam. Offers compliments.

Trans. R., 1771, no 61, p. 43.

Mar. 10. **656**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Says that by the blessing of God he is in perfect health. Is ever anxious to hear the news of His Excellency's welfare. Has sent several letters enclosing papers of news

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and hopes His Excellency has received them all. Requests the Governor to write pressingly to Mr Middleton and Muḥammad Riẓā Khān regarding the Bengal tribute, so that they may remit the *qisṭs* monthly as before. Has already forwarded a Royal *shuqqah* through Colonel Gailliez and believes the Governor has received it. Since the disbursement of the Royal expenses depends upon the remittances from Bengal, the greater promptness the Governor shows on the subject of monthly remittances the greater will be His Majesty's satisfaction. The management of the affairs of the Royal House is in the hands of the writer and he hopes, with the assistance of the Governor, to perform it satisfactorily. Will inform the Governor of all that takes place hereafter. His greatest desire is to please the Governor. Is firm in his loyalty to His Majesty, in his attachment to the Company and in his friendship for the English *sardārs*. Will do everything that the Governor requires of him. Requests His Excellency to correspond with him frequently (for correspondence is half an interview) until he shall have the happiness of a personal meeting with him.

Trans. R., 1771, no 62, pp. 43-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 157.

Mar. 10. **657.** General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Is delighted to receive his letter enclosing a Royal *shuqqah*. The addressee says that he sent repeated letters without receiving any reply. The writer has answered all his letters and cannot understand why they have not reached him. Is greatly surprised to hear that His Majesty does not listen to the advice given him by Muḥammad Ēlich Khān and the addressee in the interests of the empire, but on the other hand is determined to set out for the capital at all costs. In his *shuqqah* His Majesty has written the same thing to the writer, adding that His Excellency the Vazīr has returned to Lucknow and is not expected to accompany him to the capital this year. The addressee has written that if pressure of work prevents the writer from coming to Allahabad earlier, he will take leave of His Majesty and proceed to Benares. Says in reply that he is hastening to Allahabad and hopes the addressee will, in the meantime, persuade His Majesty to postpone his departure until the writer arrives. The cause of His Excellency the Vazīr's return to Lucknow is that Ḥāfiẓu'l-Mulk has gone to Jalali, a long distance from the banks of the Ganges; and that the march of the troops would have greatly damaged the spring crops that are extensively grown in his frontier districts. The cultivators have now been ordered to reap them during his stay at Lucknow. His Excellency is determined to carry out the plan decided upon and to make it a success. He will set out again for the frontiers of his territories when Ḥāfiẓu'l-Mulk returns in order to discuss the question of administration and to put into force the plan worked out at Benares. It will be decided then whether His Majesty is to co-operate with the Vazīr or to march to the capital. If His Majesty has made up his mind to join the Mahrattas, he will certainly have to suffer a great loss.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 36, pp. 42-4.

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Mar. 10. **658**. General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Is greatly pleased to receive his letter which he had anxiously been expecting so long. As desired by the addressee the writer is trying to obtain Royal *shuqqahs* in the names of the Mahratta *sardārs* on the lines indicated by him. Is doubtful if they can serve any useful purpose. The Mahrattas do as they like and pay no heed to the commands of the King. A letter from His Excellency will therefore be more effective than the one from His Majesty. The writer will use his best endeavours to obtain the *shuqqahs* asked for. His Excellency should not hesitate to carry out the plan decided upon, even if His Majesty does not write the *shuqqahs* desired of him. Has learnt from Captain Harper that His Excellency considers it advisable to co-operate with Ḥāfiẓu'l-Mulk and the Rohilla *sardārs*. This is exactly what the writer wishes. If His Majesty places himself in the hands of the Mahrattas, it will be necessary for them all to adopt measures for self-defence. When an alliance is made between His Excellency and the Rohillas with the approval of the English *sardārs*, the Mahrattas will never march upon their countries. Desires His Excellency to exert himself in order to give a practical form to the plan worked out at Benares and to make it a success. If this is done His Majesty will not join the Mahrattas nor will the latter dare to seize the King. But if on the contrary time is wasted in writing letters and expecting replies, the King will slip out of their hands and it will hardly be possible to get him back again. The writer will leave for Allahabad shortly in order to dissuade His Majesty from marching to the capital. Captain Harper writes that His Excellency proposes to pay 5 *lākhs* of rupees to the Mahrattas in case they withdraw from the capital. If the rumour of Mādhū Rāo's death is correct the Mahrattas will leave the capital themselves and the sum of 5 *lākhs* will be saved.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 37, pp. 44-6.

Mar. 11. **659**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Has already informed the Governor in his previous letter that he left the Presence and arrived at Benares. Held a conference with His Excellency the Vazīr and General Barker. The Governor has no doubt learnt from the General's letters of the plan that has been decided to adopt for regulating the disordered affairs of the Royal *sarkār*. Agreeably to the advice of the Vazīr and the General, he set out on the morning of 18 February from Benares in company with Muḥammad Ēlich K͟hān and returned to the sublime Presence. The Mahrattas have arrived at Shahjahanabad and taken possession of the fort and the city. Ẓābiṭah K͟hān, son of Najību'd-Daulah, has gone to his country [Najibabad]. Says that His Majesty will approve of all the suggestions of the Governor, and whatever he writes to the Vazīr and General Barker regarding the proper administration of the empire and the plans for opposing the Mahrattas shall be carried out. Will send the Governor a detailed account of all that takes place hereafter. Sends these few lines to inform the Governor of his return from Benares.

Trans. R., 1771, no 63, pp. 44-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 157.

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Mar. 11. **660**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received his several letters containing news of the west. The sailing of ships to England and other important affairs having taken all his time, he could not answer those letters. As he was told that 3 battalions were insufficient for the defence of the Raja's district, he has ordered the troops at Monghyr to march to Patna. Has asked General Barker to inspect the ditch and the ramparts of the city and report the probable cost of the repairs. On receipt of the General's report the necessary action will be taken. The writer is not unmindful of the security and the defence of the country. Desires the Raja to continue writing to him regularly about all that happens in his district.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 104, p. 38. Trans. I., 1771, no 23, pp. 10, 11. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 103.

Mar. 11. **661**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Acknowledges the receipt of a present of pickles, and offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 105, p. 38. Trans. I., 1771, no 24, p. 11. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 103.

Mar. 11.[1] **662**. To Jasārat Khān, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Dacca. Has received his letter commending the heirs of late Shukru'l-lah Khān, *Jamā'dār of* Dacca factory, to the writer's favour. As the said *Jamā'dār* served the Company faithfully he has written to Mr Harris on the subject. The addressee will learn everything from him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 106, p. 38. Trans. I., 1771, no 25, p. 11. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 99.

Mar. 12. **663**. From the King. Has not received any *'arẓīs* from the Governor for some time and is impatient to hear from him. Desires the Governor to send news of his welfare speedily to the sublime Presence. His Majesty's brother, the Vazīr, who is as dear as life itself to him, and General Barker have met at Benares. Believes that His Excellency has learnt from the General's letters of the plans they have decided to adopt. God grant that the Vazīr may be firm and immovable in his engagements! The Mahrattas have plundered the capital and taken into their custody the members of the Royal House of Tīmūr. God knows that the anxiety of His Majesty's mind passes all description. If this is not the proper time for opposing the Mahrattas, when is it ever to come? His Majesty's hopes are centered in the troops of the Governor, the strong arm of the empire and the well wisher of the sacred throne. God grant that he may remain happy under the shadow of His Majesty's protection!

PS.—The faithless Mahrattas, having left unsettled the terms of peace with Aḥmad Khān and the Rohillas, set out for Shahjahanabad and took possession of the fort and the city with His Majesty's mother, children and members of the Royal House of Tīmūr and demanded some *lākhs* of rupees from His Majesty's mother. They have removed the *'āmīls* whom Najīb Khān [Najību'd-Daulah] had appointed, stationed their

[1] Mar. 12 according to the volume of copies.

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own men in their places and are making the *band-o-bast* of the city. This disgraceful deed of the Mahrattas has mortified His Majesty, who can hardly bear to contemplate such a catastrophe as his family's falling into the hands of his enemies. He remains at Allahabad depending on the assistance and loyalty of the English *sardārs*. When the Mahrattas having taken possession of the fort of Etawa set out for Farrukhabad and confronted Aḥmad Khān and the Rohillas, His Majesty wrote repeated *shuqqahs* to the Vazīr directing him to come quickly to the sublime Presence, so that along with him he might join the Rohilla *sardārs* with a large body of men and suppress the disturbances of the Mahrattas. Is sorry that at that time the Vazīr did not come and carry out the mandates of the Presence. God grant that he may now be found faithful to his engagements and attend upon His Majesty in his expedition to the capital! Will be quite helpless if he does not do so. Trusting in God His Majesty will set out for the capital and extricate his children and family from the hands of the faithless Mahrattas. Requests the Governor, agreeably to the engagements of Lord Clive and Mr Verelst, to send express orders to General Barker to detail two battalions of the victorious forces of the English *sardārs* to join the two battalions of the Royal *sarkār*, and to attend the propitious standards on the march to the capital. Time is short and His Majesty cannot wait for the Governor's answer. Asks His Excellency to despatch his troops to follow him.

Trans. R., 1771, no 64, pp. 45-8. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 155-6.

Mar. 12. **664**. To Munnī Bēgam. Is very glad to receive her letter. Is keeping well. Hopes to hear from her every now and then.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 107, pp. 38-9.

Mar. 14. **665**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has already informed the Governor of the Mahrattas' taking possession of Shahjahanabad. 'Today,' Thursday, 3 March, there has arrived a paper of news dated 20 February to the following effect. The Mahrattas are appointing *'āmils* in the districts round the capital, which belong to Nawab Ẓābiṭah Khān. They also intend to fight the Nawab. The Mahrattas have formed three resolutions. First, if Shah 'Ālam pays the sums agreeably to his engagements, they will then appoint his son his successor. Secondly, they have written to Ghāziu'd-Dīn Khān that if he pays the *nazrānah*, they will appoint him Vazīr and place another king whom he may choose on the throne. Thirdly, if Ẓābiṭah Khān pays a *nazrānah*, they will restore to him the districts round the capital which were formerly in his possession, and the fort shall also remain in his hands. Has written this for the Governor's information.

Trans. R., 1771, no 65, pp. 48-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 162.

Mar. 14. **666**. General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Has heard from a private source that His Majesty has made a resolve to march to the capital and that active preparations are being made for the purpose. The nobles in the Court have fixed 11 *Zu'l-ḥijjah* as the date for departure. Is surprised to learn that the addressee has promised to pro-

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vide His Majesty with 9 *lākhs* of rupees on his entering Kora. His Majesty's march to the capital and the addressee's accompanying him will surely occasion the displeasure of the English *sardārs*, and serious trouble can be apprehended in the future. The writer will reach Allahabad before His Majesty's departure. The plan decided upon at Benares will be carried out whether His Majesty goes to the capital or not. The Mahrattas have entered the capital but they will not stay long. It is therefore of no use for His Majesty to join them.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 38, pp. 46-8.

Mar. 15. **667.** To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received his letter from Benares relating to the affairs of Hindustan. It is surprising that the Mahratta chiefs should have withdrawn from the country of the Rohillas and marched to Shahjahanabad. Apparently they have taken this course at the instance of Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān who has been appointed by His Majesty to negotiate with them. His Majesty cannot possibly have recommended such a plan to the Mahrattas as it can only end in disaster for him. He must have been advised by some incompetent person, unworthy of the Royal favour. His Excellency and the writer should now both together exert themselves in order to prevent the catastrophe. It is clear that the Mahrattas now intend to conquer the countries between the Ganges and the Jumna, and instead of laying them waste [as is their wont], to secure possession of them. From this centre in the west, holding the capital under their sway, they can achieve their object to a great extent. All Hindustan is keenly watching the movements of His Excellency and wonders that he, brave and powerful, should sit inactive when the destruction of his neighbours is being accomplished by a set of robbers. His Excellency should now come forward to espouse the cause of the weak and the helpless. And when he does this the Afghāns and the Rohillas will no doubt join hands with him. The Jāṭs who have suffered much from the violence and oppression of the Mahrattas will also take up arms against them. Ẓābiṭah Khān still depends on the compact of the perfidious Mahrattas. When he has seen their treachery he will gladly change his mind and cut himself loose from them. A sense of personal interest and the recollection of the latest trouble created by the Mahrattas will bring about the union of these different chiefs. From His Excellency's letter it appears that he is also informed of the alliance of these chiefs. They are under arms and will join him as soon as he takes the initiative. His Excellency cannot expect a better opportunity than the present one when these chiefs are ready to fight. Their indignation has been roused and they thirst for revenge. The English *sardārs* are always ready to take measures if the peace and tranquillity of the country are disturbed in any way.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 108, pp. 39, 40. Trans. I., 1771, no 26, pp. 11-14. Abs. I., 1766-71, pp. 105-6.

Mar. 15. **668.** General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Is greatly surprised to hear that the *sanad* for the *chaklah* of Kora is being prepared in the name of Mirzā Najaf Khān. From the very outset the English

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sardārs were against the Khān's transfer from that place. They repeatedly prayed His Majesty to reinstate him, but he was then so much annoyed with the Khān that their requests were not complied with. The Khān's reinstatement in Kora at the present juncture will not do any good to the State. It seems that His Majesty is determined to act against the plan decided upon at Benares and frustrate it. The Vazīr will never agree with him. He has distinctly written that if His Majesty does not listen to his advice, he will not interfere with the Royal affairs and leave him to do whatever he likes. The writer also thinks that the present time is not suitable for making such an appointment. If it is necessary simply because there are arrears of pay due to the Khān's troops, then the Vazir is ready to pay them from his own treasury, the amount being adjusted afterwards from the revenue of Kora. It is strange that the courtiers give such advice to His Majesty. If the addressee is not one of those advisers it is his duty to explain the matter fully to His Majesty in order to dissuade him from appointing the Khān. Thinks the present moment inappropriate for making any appointments in Kora.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 39, pp. 48-50.

Mar. 17. **669.** To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received the letter which His Excellency wrote him before leaving Benares. General Barker has also informed him of all that happened at the conference between him and His Excellency. May God grant the Rohillas success against the Mahrattas and preserve the honour and dignity of the Royal House! His Excellency commands a well-disciplined and experienced force; if he gives battle to the Mahrattas it will certainly end in disaster for them who will share the same fate as they did at the battle of Panipat. Is confident that Ẓābiṭah Khān, Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān and Aḥmad Khān will in their own interests combine against the Mahrattas and side with His Excellency. The Jaṭs too will not remain inactive when they see how much their country has suffered at the hands of the Mahrattas. It is expected that by the alliance of so many chiefs this perfidious race will receive proper chastisement. The English *sardārs* will always remain firm in their promise, and the security of His Excellency's family as well as of his country will remain the first object of their attention. The writer is awaiting the result of His Excellency's conference with the Rohilla chiefs.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 109, pp. 40-1. Trans. I., 1771, no 27, pp. 14, 15. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 106.

Mar. 17. **670.** General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Is very glad to receive his letter. The addressee has written that if anything prevents the writer from coming to Allahabad earlier he will himself repair to Benares. Says in reply that he need not take this trouble as the writer will leave for Allahabad shortly. The addressee should, in the meantime, persuade His Majesty to postpone his departure until he arrives. Hopes to receive letters from him.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 40, p. 50.

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Mar. 19. **671.** General Barker to the King. Has learnt that His Majesty is determined to march to the capital on 7 *Zu'l-ḥijjah*. The writer in obedience to His Majesty's commands will leave for Allahabad on the 3rd of the said month and will soon have the honour of kissing the Royal threshold.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 41, p. 50.

Mar. 19. **672.** General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received his letter enclosing a copy of the Royal *shuqqah*. From his letter as well as that of Munīru'd-Daulah it appears that His Majesty is bent on marching to the capital and has fixed 7 *Zu'l-ḥijjah* as the date for his departure. The writer will leave for Allahabad on Thursday, 3 *Zu'l-ḥijjah* and will try his best to prevail upon His Majesty to cancel his march. Hopes to receive letters until 'we' both meet.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 42, p. 52.

Mar. 21. **673.** From Munīru'd-Daulah. Has sent several letters enclosing papers of news through Col. Gailliez but has not received a single letter in reply. Forwards titles for Raja Tēj Chand through Col. Gailliez as the Governor desired. The deceased Raja according to the ancient custom had presented Lord Clive with a *nazrānah* of Rs 10,000 on his installation as Raja. It lies with the Governor to accept or refuse any *nazrānah* on the present occasion. Has written this for his information. Offers compliments.

Trans. R., 1771, no 66, pp. 49, 50. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 157.

Mar. 23. **674.** From Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. Has not received any letter from the Governor for a long time. Expresses his attachment and fidelity to the English *sardārs*.

Trans. R., 1771, no 67, p. 50. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 167.

Mar. 23. **675.** From Ghulām Ḥusain Khān. Has received the Governor's letter along with a letter in English addressed to the Chief at Patna in compliance with the writer's request on the subject of his *jāgīr*. Cannot find words sufficient to thank the Governor for his bounty and favour towards him. Is confident of success since His Excellency is disposed to help him. May God grant the Governor lasting prosperity !

Trans. R., 1771, no 68, p. 50. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 154.

Mar. 24. **676.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a *qist* of 3 *lākhs* of rupees on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R., 1771, no 69, p. 50. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 165.

Mar. 24. **677.** From the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 70, p. 50.

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Mar. 25. **678.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Sends a present of two baskets of apples.

Trans. R., 1771, no 71, p. 50.

Mar. 25.[1] **679.** To Munīru'd-Daulah. Is delighted to hear that he has been reinstated in his former office and enjoys a high position in the Royal Court. Hopes that the affairs of the Royal House will henceforth be conducted judiciously. Desires him to put a stop to the machinations of designing persons in the Presence and prevail upon His Majesty to listen to his sound advice. Is greatly surprised to learn that His Majesty has resolved to proceed to Shahjahanabad without making any satisfactory arrangement for his own safety. In his last *shuqqah* His Majesty had approved of the means devised at a conference between the Vazīr and General Barker at Benares. Cannot understand why he has so suddenly changed his mind. Now it has fallen to the addressee to look to the interests of His Majesty and caution him against the danger of such an undertaking without having adopted proper means for ensuring his personal safety. He should exert himself to dissuade His Majesty from proceeding to the capital, in order to give the Vazīr an opportunity of settling terms with the Rohillas, and of carrying out the plan he has decided upon in consultation with General Barker. The Vazīr being the strong arm of the empire it is not advisable to do anything that may be disagreeable to him. In such matters the English *sardārs* depend solely on the striking talents of the addressee.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 111, pp. 42-3. Trans. I., 1771, no 28, pp. 16, 17. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 100.

Mar. 26. **680.** From Mirzā Najaf Khān. Has not received any letter from the Governor for a long time and his heart is impatient to hear the news of his welfare. Urged by necessity he has obtained through Capt. Brooke a loan from the [local] merchants of a sum of Rs 16,666-11-0 equivalent to the amount of his salary from 30 January to 2 March, and has given a receipt under his seal to that gentleman. Requests that the amount may be paid to the Captain's people on presentation of the receipt.

Trans. R., 1771, no 72, p. 51. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 160.

Mar. 28. **681.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Forwards, as shown below, an account of the *band-o-bast* of the *ṣūbah* of Behar as settled in conjunction with other gentlemen and entered in the English accounts, which will pass under the Governor's gracious inspection.

Sikkah rupees	19,55,578-2-1
In different sums	29,51,482-11-3
	49,07,060-13-4

Trans. R., 1771, no 73, p. 51. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 162.

[1] Mar. 30 according to the volume of copies.

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Mar. 29. **682.** From Ghulām Ḥusain Khān. Has received the Governor's letter in answer to his. Has asked Nawab Fatḥu'l-lah Khān to return through Col. Gailliez the letter of condolence which the Governor wrote to the Nawab on receiving the news of his father's (Dūndī Khān's) death, as the news subsequently proved to be incorrect. Has written pressingly to his brother Mīr Ghulām Rasūl Khān, who is with Nawab Dūndī Khān, to inform the writer of all that takes place in that quarter [Rohilkhand]. Will send for His Excellency's information any intelligence that he receives from him. Has heard that His Majesty intends to set out for Shahjahanabad. Thinks it proper to inform the Rohillas that His Majesty will be coming shortly; and as soon as the rains set in, His Excellency the Governor must unite with the Rohilla *sardārs*, call for the assistance of Abdālī and root out the Mahrattas. The Rohilla *sardārs* have agreed to pay 25 *lākhs* of rupees to the Vazīr for assisting them. Believes Capt. Harper has informed the Governor of the offer. In case the Vazīr does not give them assistance, they will pay the amount to Abdālī. Although this sum will scarcely gratify him, yet it is beyond the power of the Rohilla *sardārs* to pay more. Says that there are two ways of rooting out the Mahrattas. The one is for all the *sardārs* of Hindustan to unite together (of which at present there is no prospect), and the other is the arrival of Abdālī. He has great confidence in Nawab Dūndī Khān and will certainly come if the Governor and Nawab Dūndī Khān write to him. If he cannot do so personally, he will send his son Tīmūr Shah. Says that one good point about Abdālī is that he never remains in Hindustan. He goes back to his country as soon as his affairs here are settled. He has no confidence in His Majesty or the Vazīr. They formerly promised to pay him 45 *lākhs* of rupees, but did not pay him a *kauṛī* more than 4 *lākhs*. Will inform the Governor of all that comes to his knowledge.

Trans. R., 1771, no 74, pp. 51-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 154.

Mar. 29. **683.** General Barker to Ẓābiṭah Khān. Had before this written a letter to the addressee containing suggestions conducive to the good of the country and the welfare of its nobles. Hopes he has received it. It appears that Ḥāfiẓu'l-Mulk took no notice of the writer's advice nor did he go to visit the Vazīr and thus the plan decided upon at Benares could not be carried out. With all this the writer is not despondent, as he believes the saying [1] 'a time for everything and everything in its proper time.' It is now the addressee's duty to act prudently until some safe means are devised for removing the evils and disturbances prevalent in the country. He should always be on his guard and manage his business so as to avoid falling an easy prey to the intrigues of the Mahrattas. Will in due course inform the addressee of some excellent means that have been devised to check the disturbances in the country.

PS.—Has reached Allahabad after leaving Benares with the sole object of persuading His Majesty to adopt measures conducive to the good of the country and the welfare of its people.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 43, pp. 52-4.

كُلُّ اَمْرٍ مَرْهُونٌ بِاَوْقَاتِهَا [1]

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Mar. 29. **684**. General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received his letter containing news of his welfare, an account of his return to Lucknow, a reference to Capt. Harper's letter for the result of the negotiations with Ḥāfiẓu'l-Mulk and his approbation of the writer's arrival at Allahabad. Hearing of His Majesty's intended march to the capital the writer hastened to Allahabad in order to prevail upon him to give up the idea. Does not know definitely what His Majesty's intentions are. Will use his best endeavours to persuade His Majesty to desist from marching to the capital. Hopes the result will not be a disappointment. Has learnt that the plan decided upon at Benares could not be carried out because of a disagreement that sprang up between His Majesty and the addressee. Has thought of another plan which is likely to bring about a reconciliation between His Majesty and the addressee. Hopes it will meet with the latter's approval. The English *sardārs* will readily help in the execution of the plan, as general security will result from its success.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 44, p. 54.

Mar. 30. **685**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received the Governor's letter informing him that Mīr Mahdī 'Alī Khān has been permitted to proceed to Mecca for 3 years, desiring the writer to pay his salary to his *vakīl* during his absence and referring him to Mr Alexander for other facts connected with the payment of the salary. Has had a conversation with Mr Alexander and has perfectly understood the Governor's directions about the payment of the Khān's salary. Says that Mīr Mahdī 'Alī Khān will start 'this' evening or 'tomorrow' morning for Mecca. Will regularly pay his salary to his *vakīl* or *gumāshtah* as directed.

Trans. R., 1771, no 75, pp. 53-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 162.

Mar. 31. **686**. General Barker to the King. Has learnt that His Majesty is bent on marching to the capital and will leave Allahabad on 22 *Ẕu'l-ḥijjah*. The writer has always cautioned him against this move and explained fully the evils that may arise in future from taking the Mahrattas into his confidence. This step can never redound to the honour of the descendants of Tīmūr nor can it promote the good of the country nor the welfare of its people. The English *sardārs* may be dragged into war with the people [the Mahrattas] at whose mercy His Majesty would leave the government of the country, the *sardārs* of Hindustan and the descendants of Tīmūr. The increase in the number of their men and strength that has been effected during the last ten years is well known to His Majesty and now their cherished desires will soon be realized. Is helpless, and can only entreat His Majesty in the interests of the State not to take this wrong course. Has ever been praying for the prosperity of the Royal House. His Majesty cannot expect any support from his servants [the English *sardārs*] in this ignoble cause which is likely to bring ruin and misery to the whole of Hindustan. Should the English troops continue to remain any longer at Allahabad or at Kora the *sardārs* of Hindustan will consider them a party to His Majesty's adventure.

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To avoid this Col. Gailliez has been ordered to hold himself in readiness in order to set out for Behar with all his army, now stationed at Allahabad, and all the available boats will be utilized in carrying the war materials. Requests His Majesty to appoint a man in order to take charge of Allahabad and Kora before the English troops leave those places and to inform Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah of the cause of this evacuation when he enquires about it.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 45, pp. 57-8.

Apr. 1. **687**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Acknowledges the receipt of the Governor's letter informing him that Mr Jekyl has started for Patna. Says in reply that he will pay every attention to that gentleman on his arrival at that city.

Trans. R., 1771, no 76, p. 54.

Apr. 1.[1] **688**. To Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. Has received his several letters requesting the English *sardārs* to send him a treaty under the seal and signature of the writer through his *vakīl* Shaikh 'Alī Naqī. Pressure of work prevented him from answering those letters earlier. The addressee's deceased father was promised the attention and care of the English *sardārs* by Lord Clive and General Carnac, as is stated in the treaty concluded between Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah and the English Company and therefore it is no use repeating professions of friendship. The writer however pledges his word again on behalf of the Company that so long as the addressee will maintain his deceased father's engagements with the Vazīr and the English *sardārs*, the latter will always hold themselves in readiness to do all that is conducive to the interest and welfare of the addressee. The *khal'ats* from the English *sardārs* will be sent to him through his *vakīl* Shaikh 'Alī Naqī as a mark of his appointment to the *zamīndārī* of his deceased father. The said *vakīl* during his stay in Calcutta was always prompt in carrying out his master's orders. Desires the addressee to keep him informed of all that happens in his quarter.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 110, pp. 41-2. Trans. I., 1771, no 29, pp. 17, 18. Abs. I., 1766-71, pp. 97-8.

Apr. 1. **689**. General Barker to the King. Has received the reply to his *'arzī* and fully understood the contents. For various reasons the writer is unable to carry out the Royal commands by retaining Colonel Gailliez with two battalions of English troops at the fort of Allahabad. Thanks His Majesty for ordering the supply of boats. Nothing but war materials shall be carried by them. Other goods shall be sent by land. Requests an order to the *kōtwāl* to provide him with as many bullocks as possible for transport. The writer is asked to persuade Munīru'd-Daulah to take charge of Allahabad and Kora, which office he twice refused when offered by His Majesty. Says in reply that Munīru'd-Daulah is an old and experienced man of good administrative abilities. He will always do what is best for the empire. It is therefore not

[1] Mar. 29 according to the volume of copies.

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advisable for the writer to compel him to take upon himself a task which is not acceptable to him. What His Majesty has written about other things requires no reply.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 46, p. 58.

Apr. 3. **690**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Has received the Governor's letter and derived great pleasure from its contents. Hopes he has read the papers of news which were sent to him some time ago. The faithless Mahrattas—the enemies of 'our' religion and worldly prosperity—have occupied Shahjahanabad and its fort. They have demanded a large sum of money from His Majesty's mother. Ẓābiṭah Khān has entrenched himself at Sukartall in his own country [Najibabad] and the Mahrattas intend to attack him. His Majesty is determined to set out for the capital, but the writer is forming plans to delay his departure [from Allahabad]. Believes the Governor has learnt of His Majesty's proceeding to the capital from the Royal *shuqqahs* and from General Barker's letters. Has forwarded the titles of Raja Tēj Chand through Colonel Gailliez and hopes the Governor has received them. In a few days the *sanads* and titles for the Governor and Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah with *khal'ats* which have been granted from the Royal Presence will be sent through Raja Diā Rām Pandit. His Majesty has ordered him to send dresses, *sarpēches* etc. to the Governor who is empowered to confer them on whatever persons he thinks proper on behalf of His Majesty. Invokes the blessing of God and prays that His Majesty may realise how much his movements may count for good or for evil; prays too that he will postpone his departure [from Allahabad], and so relieve the writer from trouble and anxiety. Has written several letters to General Barker suggesting that the sooner he reaches the Royal Presence the better it will be, for the writer is alone and unsupported. If he reaches the Royal Presence soon, the writer, along with him, will strongly urge His Majesty to postpone his departure. The ministers are jealous of him, so his unsupported request will not be fruitful. Has learnt that the delay in the General's arrival is due to the fact that he is awaiting instructions from the Governor. His Majesty has fixed 29 March as the day of his departure [from Allahabad]. Believes that by that time the Governor's instructions will have reached General Barker enjoining him to proceed to the Presence. Expects every moment the arrival of the General and the Governor's letter conveying the news of his welfare.

Trans. R., 1771, no 77, pp. 54-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 157.

Apr. 4. **691**. General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. The addressee should at once repair to the Royal Presence to request His Majesty to stay at Allahabad until a reply is received from Calcutta. The *sardārs* at Calcutta will be greatly displeased if His Majesty acts against their advice without having any regard for their honour and good name. The English *sardārs* never expect that His Majesty will march to the capital without informing them. They have always been loyal to His Majesty, they have assisted in adjusting the affairs of the Royal *sarkār*, they have served him zealously for the last five years in defending the Royal territories, in fact, they have ever tried to seek His

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Majesty's pleasure. Now when they see that their advice is ridiculed in the open *darbār* and no attention given to it, how will the flames of their indignation flare up ! Hopes that the *ṣūbah* of Allahabad and the *chaklah* of Kora will be given to His Excellency the Vazīr, as requested by him, and that the addressee will support him in keeping those provinces under control. The writer now earnestly requests His Majesty to stay his march to the capital until a reply to the *shuqqah* which His Majesty has written to Mr Cartier is received. Hopes His Majesty will listen to this.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 48, pp. 60-4.

Apr. 5. **692**. To Raja Tēj Chand. Has obtained for the addressee, as requested, the titles of his deceased father from His Majesty. Forwards them to Mr Stuart who will confer them on the addressee. Congratulates him on securing Royal bounty and favour. Has the pleasure to enclose a copy of a letter received from Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah who says that the addressee's father paid a *nazrānah* of Rs 10,000 [for obtaining the titles] during the time of Lord Clive. Hopes the addressee in consideration of his own rank and honour will repeat the practice observed by his deceased father.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 113, pp. 43-4. Trans. I., 1771, no 30, p. 19. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 104.

Apr. 5. **693**. General Barker to the King. Has been acquainted with the Royal commands from the report of Munīru'd-Daulah. Has also been told that His Majesty is still bent on marching to the capital in spite of the writer's repeated protests. The English *sardārs* had not the slightest knowledge of this move of His Majesty's before the writer's letter reached them. It was also kept secret from most of the nobles who are always in the Royal Presence, and similarly from the writer. When the Royal *shuqqah* containing this information reached him at Benares he hastened to Allahabad with a view to dissuading His Majesty from taking this wrong course. Since his representations have been of no avail he now prays His Majesty to postpone his departure until the writer receives a reply to his letters addressed to Mr Cartier and other gentlemen in Calcutta on this subject. The English *sardārs* though they never regarded the Royal plan as conducive to the good of the country might now approve of it seeing that His Majesty is determined to carry it out. The people will then think that His Majesty has not discarded the protection of the English but gone over to the Mahrattas with their consent. The writer will also be permitted to accompany the Royal standard up to Kora to show a mark of respect and loyalty to it. Hopes His Majesty will postpone his march until a reply is received.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 47, pp. 58-60.

Apr. 6. **694**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has already informed the Governor of all the news that he received concerning the Mahrattas. Has pleasure in enclosing a copy of a paper which arrived 'to-day,' Thursday 28 March, containing the demands of the Mahratta

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sardārs signed by the Shāhzādah, son of H. M. Shah Ālam. Understands from the paper in question that the Mahrattas have proceeded to the capital agreeably to His Majesty's wishes and that His Majesty himself is also determined to set out for the capital. Will duly inform the Governor of whatever intelligence he receives.

Trans. R., 1771, no 78, pp. 56-7.

695. Copy of a paper dated 12 March 1771 containing the demands of the Mahrattas signed by the Shāhzādah, received through Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān.

Demand 1.—The vassals of Shah Ālam, the King, are to be put in possession of the capital and its fort. When this is done, the Mahrattas are to receive 25 *lākhs* of rupees for their expenses.

Answer (in the Shāhzādah's handwriting).—When the fort and the country [Shahjahanabad] are made over to His Majesty, the sum of 10 *lākhs* of rupees will be issued from the Royal Presence in 8 days.

Demand 2.—If Shah Ālam comes from Allahabad to Delhi and is seated upon the throne, the sum of 15 *lākhs* of rupees is to be immediately paid, but if it is not convenient for His Majesty to come, the sum of 15 *lākhs* of rupees is to be paid in 2 months.

Answer.—Agreeably to the demand the sum of 15 *lākhs* of rupees shall be paid up on the arrival of His Majesty to the capital, but should he not come, the amount will be paid after deducting the revenues of the districts [dependent on Shahjahanabad].

Demand 3.—A new *sanad* is to be granted to the Mahrattas for Meerut and other districts according to former custom.

Answer.—It shall be granted.

Demand 4.—The Mahrattas are to be permitted to observe all other customs as before.

Answer.—They shall be permitted to continue their customs as before.

Demand 5.—Excepting the *Vizārat* all other appointments such as those of *Bakhshī* etc. are to be made by the Mahrattas, and whatever *pēshkash* etc. are settled will have to be divided equally among the King and the Mahrattas.

Answer.—This request shall be acceded to.

Trans. R., 1771, no 78A, pp. 57-8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 159.

Apr. 7.[1] **696**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Says that Shaikh ʿAlī Naqī, the *vakīl* of Raja Chait Singh, has left for Benares. It is necessary to give him an elephant for the Raja to show him respect. Has written this to the Resident at Murshidabad in a letter in English. Desires the addressee to consult the Resident over the matter and act according to his instructions [when the *vakīl* passes through his district].

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 112, p. 43. Trans. I., 1771, no 32, p. 19.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 102.

[1] Apr. 1 according to the volume of copies.

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Apr. 8. **697**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has already informed the Governor that he made a plan for seizing the fort of Pulgaon in order to establish a *chaukī* there and thus put a stop to the incursions of the Mahrattas. The gentlemen of Patna accordingly appointed Captain Camac for the expedition. By the blessing of God and under the auspices of the Governor the fort surrendered on Thursday 21 March, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and the standard of the Company was hoisted on it.

Trans. R., 1771, no 79, pp. 58-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 162.

Apr. 8. **698.** General Barker to the King. Has just received a letter from the *sardārs* at Calcutta. They are greatly surprised to hear of His Majesty's intention to go over to the Mahrattas after having approved of the plan decided upon at Benares in his *shuqqah* to the writer, a copy of which was also forwarded to the English *sardārs*. It is all the more surprising that while His Majesty was writing this *shuqqah* he was meditating an alliance with the Mahrattas. This act on the part of His Majesty displays a lack of trust and confidence in his loyal servants the English *sardārs*. His Majesty did not even consult them on such an important subject but on the contrary said that it was advisable to march to the capital in company with the Vazīr. The Vazīr being of the same opinion tried to seek the co-operation of the Afghāns and the Rohillas but could not succeed. Since His Majesty has arranged all this with the Mahratta *sardārs* secretly the writer has received instructions from the English *sardārs* neither to stand in the way of the Royal resolution nor to support it; for it cannot add to their honour and reputation or further their interests or those of His Majesty in any way. With all this they are ever ready to safeguard the Royal person, property and territory in order to prove that they are not wanting in loyalty and obedience, which they have shown during the past seven years. After receiving such a letter it is beyond the power of the writer to accompany His Majesty to Kora. He will however come to Begamganj in order to assure His Majesty that in spite of the difference of opinion he still cherishes the same respect and loyalty towards him as before. If His Majesty can leave the two princes with the English *sardārs* at Allahabad it will be a sufficient proof of the Royal confidence in them in order to convince the nobles and the people of Hindustan.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 49, pp. 64-6.

Apr. 9. **699.** To Raja Murlī Dhar. Has received his letters together with the papers of news. The English *sardārs* are pleased with those who are always prompt and ready in the discharge of their duties. Hopes the addressee will keep this in view and continue to send correct news every day. This will please the writer.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 114, p. 44.

Apr. 9. **700.** To ['Abdu'l-lah Khān], *Faujdār* of Balasore. Mr Russell is proceeding to his province for a change of climate in order to recover his health. Desires the addressee to pay him every attention.

Trans. I., 1771, no 33, pp. 19, 20. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 98.

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Apr. 10. **701**. From the King. Says that receipts for the sum of 13 *lākhs* of rupees were issued from the Presence to Raja Shitāb Rāy who forwarded them to Murshidabad. The sum of 7 *lākhs* has since been received in the Royal *sarkār*, and the sum of 6 *lākhs* still remains due. Requests the Governor to pay the aforesaid balance of 6 *lākhs* together with the sum of 5 *lākhs*, for which receipts are now issued, to the merchants [of Murshidabad] who have paid the sum of 11 *lākhs* into the Royal *sarkār*. The sooner the amount is paid to the merchants the greater will be His Majesty's satisfaction.

Trans. R., 1771, no 80, p. 59. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 156.

Apr. 10. **702**. General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Had received His Excellency's several letters but could not find time to answer them. His Excellency cannot conceive what anxiety and trouble the writer has gone through in his futile attempt to dissuade His Majesty from going over to the Mahrattas. Of course the writer could not compel His Majesty to give up the idea because he had once said that he would commit suicide rather than be made to stay at Allahabad against his will. The people who were in the Presence made all the necessary arrangements for money etc. without which His Majesty could not march to the capital. Jasāmu'd-Dīn Khān, whom His Excellency had appointed Controller of the Royal Household, is one of the men who played the most important part in making those arrangements. The writer is of opinion that if His Excellency's troops had sailed to Allahabad after the plan was decided upon at Benares, all would have been well and this business which has now assumed so serious an aspect would have been nipped in the bud. However what is done cannot be undone. The writer intended to accompany His Majesty to the confines of Kora and had asked Captain Brooke to meet him there with two battalions. Had also written to the commander of Captain Harper's detachment to go to Cawnpore by water and hold himself in readiness to march when ordered. Has just received letters from the *sardārs* at Calcutta. They are greatly dissatisfied with His Majesty who took no notice of their advice. They have decided to leave His Majesty alone to look after his own affairs. They have strictly enjoined the writer not to interfere with His Majesty but let him do whatever he likes. The English people can in no way countenance His Majesty's enterprise. The writer is therefore unable to accompany His Majesty to Kora as was proposed before, because the people will then consider the English *sardārs* a party to this move. In the Presence there are some people who will not accompany [the King to Shahjahanabad] without the writer and now they know not what to do. Assures His Excellency that his concern at the intended march of His Majesty is not based on any selfish motive but on the personal safety of His Majesty, who is now going to plunge into deep waters. The English people are competent enough to defend their own territories and those of the allies. They desire the writer to inform His Excellency that they are always prepared to assist him in all that may result from this move of His Majesty's, and to defend the country. His Excellency must not lose heart and neglect his own interests on account of the improper action of His Majesty.

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Now the best thing for him is to cultivate the friendship of the Rohilla *sardārs*. Mr Cartier will also write to him direct on this subject. As His Majesty is shaking off the protection of the English *sardārs* of his own accord, the writer loyally wishes this to be done with the mutual consent of both. He will therefore go to take leave of His Majesty and request him to put the two princes under the protection of the English *sardārs* in order to show that, although His Majesty is out of their hands, his confidence in them is still the same as before.

PS.—The English *sardārs* are greatly annoyed at His Majesty's move. They apprehend serious trouble both for themselves and for His Majesty. As the English people are always true to their engagements they will never cut themselves loose from His Majesty even if he is bent on their destruction. Will write to him again after having an audience with His Majesty.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 50, pp. 66-8.

Apr. 11. **703**. General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Says that the house in the fort where it was proposed the princes should live is not in good condition. It would be better if the princes stayed at Phaphamau and took the luggage there until the house in the fort was repaired. When the princes are placed in the writer's charge he will appoint two or three companies of sepoys to act as their guards.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 51, p. 70.

Apr. 11. **704**. General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Is very glad to receive his letter. Has understood all that was written about the Captain's [Harper's] letter. Could not write to him as he had very little time. Will write and send letters to both the Captains [Harper and Brooke] later on. The addressee has asked for one battalion from this place [Benares] to accompany His Majesty. Says in reply that not a single sepoy can be sent from here. Word has been sent to the writer that His Majesty will set out on Saturday and make a halt at the *sarāi* of Alam Chand until the writer arrives there. Will therefore start on Monday evening and arrive on Tuesday morning to have the honour of an audience with His Majesty. Mu'aẓẓamu'd-Daulah [Mr Davie], the Colonel [Gailliez] and Major Hannay will also be with the writer. Hopes that *k͟hal'ats* suited to their ranks will be kept ready for them.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 52, p. 70.

Apr. 14. **705**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Presents some shawls, *paṭṭū* etc. together with portraits of His Majesty and the Vazīr.

Trans. R., 1771, no 81, p. 59.

Apr. 14. **706**. General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Is delighted to receive his letter and has understood its contents. Some time ago when it was proposed that Sa'ādat 'Alī K͟hān should accompany the King [to Shahjahanabad], His Majesty had said that he would take the K͟hān by force if he declined to come. The writer then asked Muḥammad Ēlich K͟hān that if a house was required for Sa'ādat 'Alī K͟hān to live in, one in the fort might be selected, or if he desired to

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stop in Amīr Khān's garden that a swift *nawārah* boat might be kept ready to convey him there. Ēlich Khān attached no importance to this and answered that it was merely out of affection that His Majesty had said that he would take the Khān with him by force. It now appears that His Excellency is bent on recalling his son. If he had taken notice of this before and written to the writer to recall Sa'ādat 'Alī Khān from the Royal Presence it could easily have been done at the time relieving His Excellency from his present anxiety. The writer is of opinion that Munīru'd-Daulah is also concerned in this business of His Majesty's. It is strange that Muḥammad Ēlich Khān asked him nothing about this as long as he stayed here. Has written about other things to Captain Harper who will speak to His Excellency.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 53, p. 72.

Apr. 16. **707.** To Raja Rām Paṇḍit. Is very glad to learn that Raja Jānūjī Bhonsla has appointed the addressee *ṣūbahdār* of that province [Cuttack]. May the Almighty grant him happiness and prosperity in his appointment! Mr Marriott is the Resident of the English Company at Balasore. Hopes that keeping in view the friendship that exists between the Raja [Jānūjī Bhonsla] and the writer, the addressee will attend to all that Mr Marriott may write relative to the business of the English Company.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 115, p. 44. Trans. I., 1771, no 34, p. 20.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 104.

Apr. 17. **708.** From Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Sends a *qist* of Rs 1,09,892 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R., 1771, no 82, p. 59.

Apr. 17. **709.** From the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 83, p. 59.

Apr. 17. **710.** General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Is very glad to receive his letter and to understand its contents. His Excellency says that he is going [to Kora] to have an audience with His Majesty and desires the writer to join the Royal march so that both of them may have the pleasure of meeting each other. The writer is fully convinced that if representations are made to His Majesty he can be prevailed upon to stop at this *manzil* [Alam Chand] for another seven or eight days. It is now desirable for His Excellency to retrace his steps from the place where he is and come there [Alam Chand] to have an audience with His Majesty and see the writer. They will discuss at the meeting what plan they should adopt in order to dissuade His Majesty from marching to the capital.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 54, p. 73.

Apr. 17. **711.** Mu'aẓẓamu'd-Daulah Mr Davie to Munīru'd-Daulah. Has received his letter and explained every word of it to the General [Barker]. The General said that he understood everything thoroughly

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Has also learnt the contents of the letters the addressee received from Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah and Muhammad Elich Khān and has sent them to the General to read. Those letters have been returned through Miān Iqbāl. Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah in his letter to the General has informed him of his march and requested him to accompany the King to Kora where they can meet. The General says that it is quite impossible for him to accompany His Majesty to Kora. Hopes the addressee will therefore try to stop His Majesty at Alam Chand so that Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah can move to that side and have an audience with His Majesty and an interview with the General. The General desires the addressee to go to His Majesty, lay the matter before him, find out what his wishes are and let him [the General] know the result which he has to intimate to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. A messenger is kept ready for this purpose.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 55, pp. 73-5.

Apr. 18. **712.** From Sayyid Muhammad 'Alī Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Has arrived at Hooghly and intends to pay his respects to the Governor in Calcutta shortly.

Trans. R., 1771, no 84, pp. 59-60.

Apr. 18. **713.** General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has already sent a reply to his letter. His Excellency will receive it from the messenger who rides a camel. As the writer is unable to accompany His Majesty to Kora he requested him to stay at this *manzil* of Alam Chand for five or six days. His Majesty has kindly granted his request. It is now expedient for His Excellency to return from the place where he is and have an audience with His Majesty here. Has in his previous letter stated the reason of his inability to accompany His Majesty and will speak to him more when they meet.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 56, pp. 75-7.

Apr. 19. **714.** From Munnī Bēgam. Offers compliments.

Trans. R., 1771, no 85, p. 60.

Apr. 19.[1] **715.** To Sayyid Muhammad 'Alī Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Has received his letter intimating his arrival at Hooghly and his desire to have an interview with the writer. Says in reply that the writer is always ready to see him. He can come whenever he likes. The addressee will learn more from the letter of Raja Kāshī Nāth.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 116, pp. 44-5. Trans. I., 1771, no 35, p. 20. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 107.

Apr. 19. **716.** General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has already sent the Nawab two letters stating that His Majesty will stay at this place [Alam Chand] until he arrives. Has heard from a private source that the Nawab is only at a short distance from here. Desires to know

[1] Apr. 17 according to the volume of copies.

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the place of his last halt before he joins His Majesty's army. The writer will go to see him there as he has something very important to tell him.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 57, p. 77.

Apr. 22. **717.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has received 'today', Thursday 11 April, a paper of news to the effect that a settlement has been made between H. M. Shah 'Ālam and the Mahratta *sardārs* through Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān. The condition of the settlement is that the Mahrattas will give up to His Majesty the fort and the country of Shahjahanabad and the adjoining districts which were in the possession of Ẓābiṭah Khān, on receiving from His Majesty 40[1] *lākhs* of rupees. Out of the stipulated sum, 10 *lākhs* are to be paid in twenty days and the balance of 15 *lākhs* in two months. The Mahrattas have already evacuated Shahjahanabad but the fort is still in their possession. His Majesty has made up his mind to set out for Shahjahanabad. Accordingly his tents were sent beforehand on 5 April. Believes that His Excellency has received the intelligence from other sources as well. Will inform the Governor of all the news that he receives hereafter.

Trans. R., 1771, no 86, p. 60. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 162.

Apr. 22. **718.** General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Captain Harper has arrived here [Alam Chand] today and conveyed to the writer all that His Excellency told him. Has permitted the Captair as well as Mr Davie to have an audience with His Majesty. Having told the King that His Excellency is close at hand, requested him to stay at this *manzil* of Alam Chand until His Excellency arrives. Has, with much difficulty, caused the King last night to postpone his march for one day, but after a great discussion today made him delay it for another four days. As the writer is unable to join the King, His Excellency should, in order to please the King, at once cross the river and stop one *manzil* away from the Royal Camp. When he is so near His Majesty's march can be easily postponed for a few days more.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 58, pp. 77-9.

Apr. 22.[2] **719.** To the King. Has now learnt that His Majesty is bent on marching to Shahjahanabad. From General Barker's letter it appears that His Majesty has utterly disregarded the loyalty of the English and paid no heed to the General's representations. His Majesty is not willing to suspend his Royal resolution even for two months to enable 'us' to counteract the difficulties of so hazardous an undertaking. It was never expected that His Majesty, who in his *shuqqahs* always expressed himself indignant with the Mahratta *sardārs*, would so suddenly change his mind. His Majesty took no notice of the representations of his well-wishers and determined to throw himself into the hands of the Mahrattas and to let them seat him on the *masnad*. Being a loyal and faithful servant of His Majesty the writer will never cease to tell him what he thinks best for him. Has repeatedly spoken to His Majesty on

[1] Apparently the amount should be 25 and not 40 *lākhs*.
[2] Apr. 23 according to the volume of copies.

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the subject of the Mahrattas whose disloyalty, evil character, natural rapacity and falsehood are so well known. The writer thought that His Majesty would accurately gauge the danger that attends the Royal resolution. At a time when promises to aid His Majesty in the consolidation of his empire are held out to him from every quarter, His Majesty ought not to throw himself into the hands of the Mahrattas, the enemies of the throne. His Majesty will now see the behaviour of these people and their sincerity and loyalty will soon be tested. They take pleasure at His Majesty's distress and the object of their pretended loyalty is to get him into their clutches in order to use his name to reach their own ends. The writer has so far only made an open protest against the Royal resolution in expressing his loyalty. His Majesty is the master of his own will and can do whatever he likes. Since His Majesty is determined to march immediately to the capital, the writer assures him that the good wishes of his faithful servants the English will always attend him whether he is at Shahjahanabad or at Allahabad. If, which God forbid, His Majesty is obliged to reside at Allahabad the English will be ever ready to make his situation happy. May God protect His Majesty from all evils! Hopes that His Majesty will consider the writer as his well-wisher and honour him with *shuqqahs* every now and then containing the news of his welfare.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 118, pp. 45-7. Trans. I., 1771, no 36, pp. 20-3. Abs. I., 1766-71, pp. 99, 100.

Apr. 23. **720.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has already informed the Governor that His Majesty has come to an agreement with the Mahrattas by which he is to pay them 40[1] *lākhs* of rupees and they are to give up the fort and the country of Shahjahanabad and the neighbouring districts which were formerly in the possession of Ẓābiṭah Khān; and that it was reported that His Majesty would set out for the capital on 9 April. 'Today', Friday 12 April, there has arrived a paper of news to the following effect. His Majesty left Allahabad at 1 o'clock in the afternoon of 9 April and reached his camp. The Mahrattas have given up Shahjahanabad and are arranging for the delivery of the fort.

Trans. R., 1771, no 87, p. 61. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 163.

Apr. 23.[2] **721.** To Munīru'd-Daulah. Is delighted to receive the portraits of His Majesty and the princes and the Vazīr together with a bottle of rose attar, a few pieces of *paṭṭū* cloth, a kerchief[3] and some fruits, as specified in a list enclosed in his letter. The writer does not expect ceremony from his friends. He has accepted the presents because of their being an outcome of true friendship on the part of the addressee.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 117, p. 45.

[1] The amount should be 25 and not 40 *lākhs*.
[2] Apr. 18 according to the volume of copies.
[3] Pers. *shāl rūmāl* (lit. shawl-handkerchief), a very small square shawl, worn as a decoration loosely on the shoulder or round the neck.

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Apr. 24. **722**. General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received His Excellency's letter and explained to Captain Harper all it contained about him. His Excellency says that he will cross the river and set out on Saturday, 11 *Muharram*. His Majesty has also fixed the same day for his departure. It will therefore be very difficult to get His Majesty's march postponed. If pressure of work prevents His Excellency from starting before the 11th, he must send his troops at once by water to stay one *manzil* away from the Royal camp, and set out himself positively on the 11th. It is probable that His Majesty's march can by this means be delayed a few days more.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 59, pp. 79-81.

Apr. 27. **723**. From Nawab Zābitah Khān. Has received the Governor's letter informing him of his welfare and expressing sorrow at the death of the writer's father. Is convinced that the sorrows of the Governor arise from the excess of his friendship with the deceased. Says that although this is a calamity which death alone can remove from the writer's heart, yet as there is no remedy against the decrees of Providence, 'we' must patiently submit to them. Wishes that the Almighty may preserve all those who share his grief. Believes that the Governor has learnt of the treachery of the Mahrattas and of the way they are ravaging the capital and all the neighbouring districts. They seem to think that by fomenting disputes among the different powers of Hindustan they will achieve their own object. They are negotiating separately with all the chiefs, but it is certain that none who is wise will listen to any of their proposals. Since his meeting with General Barker the Vazīr has been intending to join forces with the Rohillas in order to chastise and disperse the Mahrattas. Flatters himself with the hope that they will now receive proper punishment for their treachery. Is now resting at home and is ever ready to crush his enemies. Will hereafter inform the Governor of whatever may come to pass. Has heard from him after a long time, and hopes he will correspond with him till the writer enjoys the pleasure of a personal interview.

Trans. R., 1771, no 88, pp. 61-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 168.

Apr. 28. **724**. General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received His Excellency's letter today, which is Sunday, containing the news of his arrival. Will see him tomorrow, 13 *Muharram*, early in the morning.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 60, p. 81.

Apr. 29. **725**. To Mīr Ghulām Husain Khān. Has received the addressee's letter requesting a letter of recommendation to Raja Chait Singh. Has also learnt about him from the report of Rafi'u'd-Daulah Mr Callaud Bahadur Qāim Jang. A letter addressed to the said Raja is herein enclosed as requested by him. Hopes he will always inform him of important events.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 119, p. 47.

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Apr. 29. **726**. To Raja Chait Singh. Mīr Ghulām Husain Khān who has been the deputy of the Rohillas to the English *sardārs* for the last few years is now staying at Benares. As the Khān is a well-wisher of the Company the Raja is asked to pay him every attention. This will please the writer.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 120, p. 47.

Apr. 29.[1] **727**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Was delighted to receive his two letters, one on 27 and the other on 29 *Muharram, Julūs* 12, each accompanying a present of ten melons. Hopes he will please the writer with letters of his welfare and of the events of that quarter.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 121, p. 47. Trans. I., 1771, no 38, p. 23.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 103.

Apr. 29. **728.** General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received intelligence from Captain Brooke that six or seven thousand Nāga mendicants have crossed the Jumna from the *ghāt* of Kalpi and passed on towards the Ganges through the confines of Kora. The Captain proceeded to punish them. He caught them between his army and the Ganges. They could not cross the river, the *ghāts* being closed. He now asks for permission to chastise them. The mendicants say that they have His Excellency's *parvānah* for crossing the river and passing through his territory. The writer therefore enquires if they have any such *parvānah* from His Excellency and if he desires to have them in his territory for their trial.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 61, p. 83.

Apr. 30. **729.** General Barker to Raja Chait Singh. Has received intelligence that a certain Frenchman is travelling from the south-east to the west. He will probably pass through the Raja's territory. He is riding in a palanquin and eight or ten servants are attending him. Desires the Raja to send this news to the neighbouring countries and enjoin the *faujdārs* etc. to arrest the man when found and send him to the writer. This will greatly please him. Hopes he will always correspond with the writer till they both meet.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 62, p. 85.

May 6. **730.** From Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has hitherto always reported the state of affairs to the Governor and also to General Barker. His Majesty has now set out from Allahabad and will join the Mahrattas at Shahjahanabad. The writer is tired of making representations to His Majesty against this move. The Governor has in no way opposed this and the writer is therefore unable to form an idea of what he thinks will be the result of it, or to conceive what course should be taken in the matter. Says that he is, and always will be, a friend of the English *sardārs*. Thinks that His Majesty's move [to Shahjahanabad] will assume a serious aspect and will put both the English *sardārs* and

[1] May 15 according to the volume of copies.

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the writer to much trouble. Says that the Mahrattas are the enemies of the whole of Hindustan. Is greatly disturbed to see that His Majesty is going to put himself into the hands of these rebels. Requests the Governor to lodge a protest against this move of His Majesty's. Hopes that the Governor will write to him frequently about his welfare.

Trans. R., 1771, no 89, pp. 63-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 167.

May 6.[1] **731.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Is delighted to receive his letter saying that 2 June has been fixed for the *Puniā* of 1178 *Faṣlī* and requesting the writer to attend the ceremony. The writer is unable to see him owing to pressure of work during these days. Desires the addressee to celebrate this in conjunction with the members of the Mursidabad Council.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 124, p. 49. Trans. I., 1771, no 39, p. 23.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 101.

May 8.[1] **732.** To Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Is very glad to receive his *nazr* of five gold mohurs for obtaining new titles and honours from the King.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 125, p. 49. Trans. I., 1771, no 40, p. 23.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 104.

May 8. **733.** General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Attended the *darbār* in order to obtain an audience with the King. His Majesty desires the Nawab to call at the *darbār* tomorrow. The writer therefore advises the Nawab to act in obedience to the Royal commands instead of marching any further.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 63, p. 85.

May 9. **734.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Intimates that 'today' 1 May, he received a paper of news stating that Dūndī Khān, a Rohilla *sardār*, who had been ill for a long time, died on 17 April.

Trans. R., 1771, no 90, p. 64. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 163.

May 10. **735.** From Muḥammad 'Alī Khān. Informs the Governor that he has safely returned to Hooghly [from Calcutta].

Trans. R., 1771, no 91, p. 64.

May 10. **736.** General Barker to Ẓābiṭah Khān. Has received his letters which were sent through two messengers. This has laid the foundations of friendship and effected a union so greatly desired by the addressee. Will send a reply to them through *vakīl* Muḥammad 'Alī Khān. Hopes that he will always keep the writer informed in this way of his welfare, for correspondence is held to be half an interview and gives satisfaction to the heart of well-wishers.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 64, p. 87.

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[1] May 27 according to the volume of copies.

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May 12. **737**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Sends a present of 5 baskets of melons.

Trans. R., 1771, no 92, p. 64.

May 14. **738**. From Ghulām Ḥusain Khān. Transmits all the intelligence that he has gathered from time to time for the Governor's information. The rainy season is now at hand and the Mahrattas have ceased creating disturbances. Now is an excellent occasion for opposing them if the chiefs of Hindustan, the Governor and the Rohilla *sardārs* join together. Will communicate all that happens in future.

Trans. R., 1771, no 93, pp. 64-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 154.

May 14. **739**. From Raja Tēj Chand. His Excellency knows about the distress and hardship of the poor inhabitants due to the famine this year. Notwithstanding this, the revenues have been fully collected. Says that by ancient custom he is entitled to whatever amount is left over after payment of the collection has been made to the Company. The writer therefore requests that after settling the revenues of the *sarkār*, the balance in specie may kindly be sent to him. His Excellency is perhaps acquainted with the writer's distressed situation. The sum of money that he has borrowed from the merchants for the performance of certain religious ceremonies on account of the death of his father cannot be repaid without the countenance and favour of the Governor. Requests the Governor to direct Mr Stuart to pay the writer the sum in specie according to the established custom.

Trans. R., 1771, no 94, p. 65. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 165.

May 15. **740**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. The *Puniā* ceremony for 1178 [*Faṣlī*] is to be held on 2 June. Requests the Governor's presence on the occasion of the settlement of the *band-o-bast* for the present year. Both the writer and other well-wishers of the Governor expect his presence.

Trans. R., 1771, no 95, pp. 65-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 158.

May 16. **741**. Raja Tēj Chand to the Gentlemen of the Committee of Revenue. Forwards a copy of his letter addressed to the Governor, who received it on 14 May, asking for the surplus revenue of the Burdwan tribute according to the established custom.

Trans. R., 1771, no 97, pp. 66-7.

May 16. **742**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Informs the Governor that Shaikh 'Alī Naqī, the *vakīl* of Raja Chait Singh, arrived here [Murshidabad]. He has been provided with an elephant as desired by the Governor.

Trans. R., 1771, no 98, p. 67. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 158.

May 17. **743**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Sends a present of melons.

Trans. R., 1771, no 99, p. 67.

May 17. **744**. From Munnī Bēgam. Offers compliments.

Trans. R., 1771, no 100, p. 67.

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May 17. **745**. General Barker to Ẓābiṭah Khān. Has received his letter about the deputation of Ratan Singh. Has learnt all about the negotiations carried on there [Najibabad] from the report of Ratan Singh. Will write to the addressee all that may result from a conference and consultation here [Kora].

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 65, p. 87.

May 18. **746**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has already forwarded for the Governor's information all the intelligence that the writer has hitherto received from the west. Has received 'today' (Thursday, 9 May) a paper of news to the following effect. On the last day of April the Vazīr had an audience with His Majesty at the *sarāi* of Alam Chand. On 2 May Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah was appointed *Nāib* of Allahabad and Kora. A *khal'at* consisting of a *sarpēch,* a string of pearls, jewels, a sword, an elephant and a horse having been conferred on him he took leave of His Majesty. On 3 May His Majesty ordered his camp to be removed to Sharifabad. It is reported that both the Vazīr and General Barker will accompany His Majesty to Kora. Has written this for the information of the Governor.

PS.—The Vazīr has permitted his son Sa'ādat 'Alī Khān to accompany His Majesty [to Shahjahanabad].

Trans. R., 1771, no 101, pp. 67-8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 163.

May 18. **747**. From Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah. Says that he has just received the Governor's letter which he had been expecting so long, and has understood its contents. The writer is always anxious to know of the Governor's welfare. The Governor says that it has given him the greatest pleasure to hear that His Majesty has appointed the writer to his former post. He fully believes it. The writer is an adherent of the Company, a well-wisher of the Governor and a friend of the English *sardārs.* All that the Governor has written about His Majesty's march [to Shahjahanabad] is true. It is the outcome of the sincere and loyal wishes which the Governor as well as the English *sardārs* always entertain for His Majesty. Has repeatedly explained to His Majesty the difficulties arising from this move, but his representations always proved futile. Is of opinion that, as His Majesty is bent on this march, no further representation will bear any fruit. His Majesty has stopped at the *sarāi* of Alam Chand, 9 *kōs* from Allahabad. General Barker is also there to take leave of him. The Vazīr has just arrived from Fyzabad and had an audience with His Majesty. The writer is not willing to accompany His Majesty to the capital and thus shake the confidence of the English *sardārs.* On learning the intention of the writer His Majesty appointed the Vazīr *ṣūbahdār* of Allahabad and Kora, and conferred upon him the *farmān* for the *ṣubahdārī* and *faujdārī* thereof. On 2 May the Vazīr invested with the honours of a *khal'at,* jewels etc., took leave of His Majesty and left for Allahabad. General Barker and the Vazīr will both accompany His Majesty to Kora, and will then return. The Royal resolution will be definitely known after His Majesty's arrival at Kora. From the correspondence of General Barker, the Governor is, most probably, acquainted with the negotiations carried on between the Vazīr and His Majesty. The

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General tried every possible means to dissuade His Majesty from this move but to no purpose. Is always firm in his friendship with the Governor as well as the English *sardārs*. The writer is ever anxious about the Governor's welfare. Hopes he will write to him every now and then.

Trans. R., 1771, no 102, pp. 68-70. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 157.

May 18. **748**. From Udēpūrī Gusain. Having obtained two months' leave from the addressee he went to Cuttuck and paid his devotions to Jaggannath. On 23 November he arrived at Nagpur in response to the summons of Raja Jānūjī Bhonsla, and informed him of all the particulars of affairs and of the Governor's good qualities. The Raja was much displeased at not receiving the *qists* of the Bengal *chauth* established by former *Nāzims*. Told the Raja that the English are endowed with penetration and foresight, and the reason of their delaying the payment was that they expected an answer from the King of England. Informed the Raja of his arrival at Cuttuck with leave of absence for two months and advised him to write a letter to the English *sardārs* in order to find out if they intend to pay the *qists* and maintain friendly relations thereby. The writer also promised him to write a letter to the Governor separately. On receipt of a plain answer, the Raja was at liberty to settle the matter in any way he liked. He [the Raja] gave no answer to these and remained silent. Communicates the facts of the case to the Governor and requests an explicit answer. If the *qists* are delayed in making arguments, the tie of friendship existing between the Governor and the Raja might be broken. Says that it will be of great advantage to the Governor to maintain friendly relations with the Raja and other enterprising chiefs. This will strengthen the possession of his fertile province of Bengal. Forwards all the letters which the writer has hitherto received from the Raja on this subject. Requests the Governor to act in such a way as not to offend the Raja. Hopes for a clear and speedy reply to avoid all further correspondence in the matter.

Trans. R., 1771, no 103, pp. 70-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 169.

May 18. **749**. From Raja Jānūjī Bhonsla [Raja of Nagpur]. Cannot understand why the *qists* of the Bengal *chauth*, established by former *Nāzims*, have not yet been paid. As Udēpūrī Gusain returned without obtaining the *qists*, it appears that the Governor refused to pay them. It is really a pity that a chief like the Governor fails to keep his promise. Udēpūrī Gusain says that he did not receive any satisfactory reply from the English for delaying the *qists*, and that his great keenness to have an interview with the writer caused him to come and see him [writer] without previously obtaining permission to do so. Believing that what Udēpūrī Gusain says is true, the writer is obliged to correspond with the addressee on the subject. Requests the addressee to settle the question of the *chauth* and thus maintain peace and friendship. The Governor will learn more from the correspondence of Udēpūrī Gusain.

Trans. R., 1771, no 104, pp. 72-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 166.

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May 18. **750.** From Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah. Had written several letters to the Governor but received no reply. He had also despatched a letter to the Governor through Colonel Gailliez after he reached Allahabad leaving His Majesty at the *sarāi* of Alam Chand. Hopes that the Governor has received it. Regrets that the addressee did not even acknowledge the receipt of the portraits of His Majesty and of the Vazīr sent with some shawls, *paṭṭūs* and a bottle of attar some time ago. Will send through Colonel Gailliez some excellent attar which the writer expects from Kashmir very soon. Raja Diā Rām Paṇḍit is accompanying His Majesty to Kora. The writer therefore could not despatch the *sanads, farmāns* and *khal'ats* for Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah and others through him as was written in his previous letters. He now sends them to Raja Shitāb Rāy who will forward them to the addressee.

PS.—His Majesty has issued seven *khal'ats* with jewels, one with a string of pearls, *sarpēch* and *jāgīr* for the Governor, another with a *sarpēch* and *jāgīr* for Mr Russell, and one with jewels for each Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah and Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. His Majesty authorises Mr Cartier to confer the other three *khal'ats* on whatever persons he thinks proper.

Trans. R., 1771, no 105, pp. 74-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 157-8.

May 18. **751.** General Barker to 'Ināyatu'l-lah Khān. Was greatly surprised to hear of the addressee's sudden departure to that side [Pilibhit]. Has now received his letter explaining the state of things there and the reason of his hasty departure. There is no harm in this as it was the addressee's duty to attend to the summons of Nawab Hāfiẓu'l-Mulk Bahādur. Hopes that he will always write about his welfare until they meet.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 66, p. 89.

May 19.[1] **752.** From the mother of the Raja of Burdwan [Tēj Chand]. His Excellency is perhaps acquainted with all the particulars of her distressed situation. Bābū Rām Chand, who is a near relation of hers and is now in attendance on the Governor, has repeatedly informed him of it. Raja Tēj Chand, who is as dear to her as life itself, has been confirmed in the *zamīndārī* of his deceased father solely through the countenance and favour of the Governor. Requests the addressee to exalt Bābū Rām Chand with the office of the *Dīvān*, as has already been written to the Gentlemen of the Council. This will undoubtedly be a very generous act towards the fatherless infant [Tēj Chand] All the servants of the writer taking advantage of her widowhood have become her enemies ; she looks for protection to none but the Governor.

Trans. R., 1771, no 96, p. 66. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 165.

May 20. **753.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Invites the attention of the Governor to the annual custom of the mint of Murshidabad and other places that every year on the 1st of *Jumādā* I, which is the date of His Majesty's accession, the stamps for the new *sikkahs* are prepared and

[1] May 15 according to the volume of Abstracts.

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after five or six months orders are given to coin and circulate. Accordingly the writer forwarded to the Governor the stamps for the new *sikkahs* for the current year (which is the twelfth year of His Majesty's reign). Regrets to say that nine months have elapsed and the Governor has not given any order to the Mint Master for coining and circulating them, and that therefore the stamps of the previous year are still in use. The Dutch and other merchants, owing to the non-circulation of the new *sikkahs*, have not brought any bullion to the mint for coinage as they always used to do by paying a custom to the *sarkār*. Consequently a large amount of silver is collected in the Dutch factory, and the business of the mint is at a standstill. As this is a loss to the *sarkār*, the writer has coined five rupees which he forwards to the Governor for his approval. Requests the Governor to issue orders to the Mint Master for the circulation of the new *sikkahs*.

Trans. R., 1771, no 106, pp. 75-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 158.

May 21. **754**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Intimates that on 4 May Raja Murlī Dhar attended the *darbār* as usual. Next day [5 May] at about 3 P.M. a *harkārah* brought news that he was murdered by one of his servants. Accordingly Mānik [1] and a *farrāsh* have been arrested.

Trans. R., 1771, no 107, p. 77. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 163.

May 21. **755**. From Raja Tēj Chand. Acknowledges the receipt of the titles from His Majesty through Mr Stuart. Offers thanks to Mr Cartier and sends a congratulatory *nazr* of five gold mohurs on the occasion.

PS.—Says that he has received the copy of Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah's letter to the Governor. Has learnt all about the usual *nazrānah* of Rs 10,000. He will forward it to the Governor shortly.

Trans. R., 1771, no 108, p. 77. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 165.

May 22. **756**. From Ghulām Husain Khān. A duplicate copy of his letter dated 14 May 1771. (*See above* no 738.)

Trans. R., 1771, no 109, p. 77.

May 22.[2] **757**. To Muhammad Rizā Khān. The letter enclosed herein regarding the erection of a French factory at Chandia [3] is intended for Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. The French have certainly acted imprudently in proposing to build a new factory without the permission of the *Nizāmat*. The Nawab will, the writer believes, prevent them from erecting any such factory and compel the *zamīndārs* to return the money if they have received any from the French people for the sale of their land. Thinks it necessary to remove the French factory from Chandia. Desires the Nawab to give them some other place far away from the river side and free from the danger of being washed away so

[1] One of the servants of Raja Murlī Dhar.

[2] May 27 according to the volume of copies.

[3] The volume of copies gives 'Chandela,' evidently a mistake.

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that they may carry on their trade there. The Nawab can tell them at the same time that this chastisement is given them because they started to build their factory without previously obtaining the sanction of the *Niẕāmat*.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 122, pp. 47-8. Trans. I., 1771, no 42, pp. 25-6. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 101.

May 22.[1] **758**. To Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. The Murshidabad Council have informed the Nawab of the views of the Calcutta Council regarding the erection of a new French factory at Chandia. Has been fully informed of the measures which the Nawab has taken to prevent this. The French have clearly failed to show the *Niẕāmat* that respect which it has invariably received from others on similar occasions. Had never heard of the removal of an old factory and the erection of a new one without the sanction of the *Niẕāmat*. The Nawab has done the right thing in stopping the French from carrying out their plan. They will now learn that some respect is due to the *Niẕāmat* and they will take good care not to disregard it. In future they will never build a factory on any plot of ground obtained by a secret purchase without the knowledge of the *Niẕāmat*. But as their factory at Jugdia is in danger of being washed away, the Nawab is requested to grant them permission to build a factory on some other plot of ground, which is free from such danger and is near Jugdia. Has written this to the Nawab in compliance with the request of the French, who asked the writer to intercede for them. They will never advise the Nawab to give them Chandia because there they acted injudiciously and in utter disregard of the *Niẕāmat's* rights.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 123, pp. 48-9. Trans. I., 1771, no 41, pp. 24-5. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 102.

May 22. **759**. General Barker to Ẕābiṭah Khān. Has received his letters through his *vakīls* Muḥammad 'Alī Khān and Ratan Singh and obtained a detailed news of that quarter [Najibabad] from his letters as well as from the report of his *vakīls*. Was thinking of sending a reply to that letter of his in which the addressee had enclosed a letter from Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān but could not write it owing to pressure of work. When it first came to his knowledge that the Mahrattas had taken possession of the capital and the addressee's country, he proceeded to Benares to have an interview with the Vazīr in order to look for general security and to put an end to the disturbances created by these people. He saw the Vazīr after reaching Benares and the plan that was decided upon there has already been communicated to the addressee. The writer to the best of his ability tried to bring about a union between the Vazīr and the Rohilla *sardārs*, so that they might make a combined effort to put down the disturbances created by the Mahrattas. With the advice of the writer, the Vazīr left for the confines of his own territories to meet Hāfiẕu'l-Mulk but the latter did not turn up; the Vazīr had to return to his own country and consequently the scheme fell through. The King in the meantime, as is written in the addressee's letter, was

[1] May 27 according to the volume of copies.

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carrying on secret negotiations with the Mahratta *sardārs*. When His Majesty knew that the plan was not executed because the Vazīr and Ḥāfiẓu'l-Mulk did not meet, he determined to join the Mahrattas. Having learnt this the writer made several representations to the King from Benares and even went personally to the Presence in order to speak on the subject. He fully explained the evil consequences that might arise from such a wrong course but without any result. Finding that His Majesty is firm in his intentions, the writer ceased to make any further representations, but as His Majesty was friendly to the writer and his community for the last seven years, he never thought it prudent to part from him in anger. Has now therefore accompanied the King to the frontiers of Kora and will leave him here. God alone knows what will happen after His Majesty parts from the writer and falls into the hands of the Mahrattas. All that the addressee has written on this subject is plausible. Since his writing a letter to the addressee from Benares the situation is now greatly changed. During those days His Majesty's connection with the Mahrattas was not so intimate, and the writer was perfectly convinced that His Majesty would appreciate the work of his servants [the English] as soon as he saw how much he himself had to gain by it. Had therefore written to the addressee not to act in haste but to maintain his friendship with the English *sardārs* until something was decided upon. The writer's plan has been a total failure partly through the short-sighted policy of the people of the Royal Court and partly through Ḥāfiẓu'l-Mulk's not meeting the Vazīr. The evils that have already resulted from this are well known and what further evils will accrue from it are known to God alone. God grant that His Majesty taking into consideration his own advantage and his own welfare may return to Allahabad! The writer cordially wishes that the friendship which has just sprung up between the addressee and himself may daily increase and the correspondence thus initiated may always continue. Hopes that he will always inform the writer of his welfare. This will please him.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 67, pp. 89-95.

May 23. **760**. General Barker to the King. It is now necessary for the writer to leave His Majesty. Is therefore anxious to know when he will be allowed to have an audience in order to take formal leave. As His Majesty's *shuqqahs* are issued to Mr Cartier without the knowledge of the writer, who is a representative of the English *sardārs*, there is no use for him to stay here any longer. If His Majesty is pleased to put the Prince in the care of his loyal servants [the English *sardārs*], it will give them great pleasure and they will be honoured. The people of Hindustan will then see that His Majesty's favour to the English and their loyalty to him are still the same as before. This will redound to the glory of His Majesty and enhance the reputation of the English *sardārs*.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 68, p. 95.

May 25. **761**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Sends a present of melons.

Trans. R., 1771, no 110, p. 77.

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May 25. **762.** General Barker to Nawab Shuja'u'd Daulah. The writer waited on the King yesterday and was asked to forward to His Excellency the *shuqqah*, which His Majesty had addressed to Mr Cartier ordering him to make over the fort of Allahabad to His Excellency. It is enclosed herein for His Excellency to despatch in any way he likes. Hopes that His Excellency will always write about his welfare.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 69, p. 97.

May 26. **763.** From Birj Kishōr Rāy, *Dīvān* of Burdwan. It was solely through the countenance and favour of the Governor that the writer was appointed *Dīvān* of Burdwan. Notwithstanding the famine and the bad state of the country, he succeeded in collecting the revenues. Hopes to manage this similarly in future. By the auspicious favour of the Governor, Raja Tēj Chand was appointed to the *zamīndārī* of his deceased father, Raja Tilōk Chand, and thus maintained the prosperity of the house of the deceased Raja. It is perhaps known to the addressee what difficulties the writer has undergone in showing his allegiance to the Raja. Hopes that according to the established custom the business of the Raja will be conducted so that no one may have any reason for complaint and the people may live in peace. He had written a letter to his *vakīl* as well as to one of his friends in Calcutta asking their opinion on certain matters. Bābū Rām Chand, son of late Mānik Chand, intercepted both the letters in Calcutta, uncovered and read them and also sent copies to the Raja [Tēj Chand], who produced them before a number of people. Says that it is contrary to law to open the letters of others without their permission. As the writer looks for protection to none but the Governor, who is the ruler of the country, he lays the matter before him and asks for justice.

Trans. R., 1771, no 111, pp. 77-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 153-4.

May 26. **764.** General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Had given no credit to the news which he received from the Mahratta camp regarding the defeat of Ḥaidar Nāik. Has now learnt from the letters received from the Deccan that Ḥaidar Nāik sustained a crushing defeat at the hands of the Mahrattas and took refuge in Seringapatam. A vast sum of money (said to be about half a crore of rupees), the camp equipage and the city fell into the hands of the Mahrattas. The English troops took no part in this battle against Ḥaidar Nāik. It is not known if any troops were sent to the assistance of the Mahrattas after this occurrence. He will let His Excellency know when he receives full details.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 70, pp. 97-9.

May 27. **765.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẕim* of Behar. Sends a present of melons.

Trans. R., 1771, no 112, p. 79.

May 28. **766.** General Barker to Aḥmad Khān. Has received his letter giving the news of that quarter [Farrukhabad] and reproaching his friend, the writer, for not writing him letters. Has fully understood

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the particulars. The addressee says that His Majesty is now going to the capital only because the plan decided upon at Benares was not executed. The writer tried his best to prevent the King from taking this course but to no effect. Heaven knows what evil results may arise from this. The writer has now washed his hands of this business and so it is not proper to blame him.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 71, p. 99.

May 28. **767.** General Barker to Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān and Naṣru'l-lah Khān. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 72, p. 101.

May 28. **768.** General Barker to Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān. Has received his letter and fully understood its contents. Has permitted Kān Singh to go to the addressee and communicate to him everything about this place [Kora]. Will also send Muḥammad 'Alī Khān later on with the detailed news of this part of the country.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 73, p. 101.

May 28. **769.** General Barker to Ẓābiṭah Khān. Has already answered his letters received through his *vakīls*. He must have learnt in detail all that has happened here [Kora]. Muḥammad 'Alī Khān is going to have the honour of an interview with the addressee and will speak to him all about this place [Kora].

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 74, p. 74.

May 29. **770.** From Nawab Asadu'l-lah Khān. Having taken leave of His Excellency he set out for Azimabad. On 9 *Zu'l-qa'dah* he arrived at Surat and delivered His Excellency's letter to Mr Draper, the chief of that place. This gentleman showed him every mark of attention and civility. Will start for the port of Muscat on the 12th and thence continue his journey.

Trans. R., 1771, no 113, pp. 79-80. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 153.

May 30. **771.** To Jādū Rāy Chaudhrī and Lakkhī Narāyan, *zamīndārs* of Hijili. Informs them that eight boats carrying saltpetre are sunk in the river near Rangafalla within their jurisdiction. Desires them to have the peasants of their *'āmils* employed to get the sunken articles out. This is to be treated as urgent.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 127, p. 50.

May 31. **772.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Sends a present of melons.

Trans. R., 1771, no 114, p. 80.

May 31. **773.** To Nawab Fatḥu'l-lah Khān. The writer's heart is so stricken by the sad news of the death of Nawab Dūndī Khān that both his pen and tongue lack the power adequately to express his sorrow. The deceased was undoubtedly an able *sardār* and had always been a sincere well-wisher of His Majesty. But as there is no remedy against the decrees of Heaven, and Death being inevitable, the addressee should resign himself to the will of God. No doubt the death of the late Nawab has occasioned the deepest sorrow, but the sight of a worthy successor like the addressee considerably mitigates it. Friends and

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strangers alike expect the addressee to keep up the good name and honour of his deceased father by earning the good wishes of the people and thus setting an example for the future generations to follow. Hopes that the addressee will maintain the friendly relations that existed between his deceased father and the writer and will always correspond with him.

Trans. I., 1771, no 43, p. 26. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 98.

June 2. **774.** General Barker to the King. Two letters, one from Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Khān and the other from a certain person in the Mahratta camp, whose name His Majesty can well guess and which it is not necessary to mention here, have fallen by chance into the hands of the writer. As they deal with an important subject, it is thought requisite to inform His Majesty of it, and he therefore encloses copies for him to read.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 75, pp. 103-5.

June 3. **775.** From Bābū Jai Nāik. Intimates that the Raja of Nagpur has appointed Raja Rām Pandit *Sūbahdār* of Orissa. Two months have elapsed since the writer arrived in perfect health in Orissa with a number of sepoys and attendants depending on the *sarkār*. The balance of money due from the *zamīndārs* and Rajas has been satisfactorily adjusted. The Pandit has received a letter from the Governor through Mr Marriott [Resident at Balasore]. Hopes that the Governor will frequently write to him. Is sure that the peace and tranquillity of the country depend solely upon the union subsisting between the Raja and the English *sardārs*. Assures the Governor that he had never been backward in conducting his business, as the gentleman of Chicacole complained. Points out that the contiguity of the *zamīndārīs* of that gentleman and the writer causes disputes on trifling matters. Requests the Governor to write both to the gentleman of Chicacole and the officers of the port of Balasore asking them to remain firm in the established custom and never to deviate from it.

Trans. R., 1771, no 115, pp. 80, 81. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 153.

June 4.[1] **776.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Is delighted to receive his four letters each accompanying a present of ten melons. The last letter was received on 18 *Ṣafar, Julūs* 12.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 126, pp. 49, 50. Trans. I., 1771, no 44, p. 26. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 103.

June 5. **777.** From Shām Rāy,[2] mother of the deceased Raja Tilōk Chand. Has always reported to the Governor the state of affairs at Burdwan. The Governor has certainly done well to do away with the practice of exalting the elder Rānī to manage the affairs of the *zamīndārī* during the minority of the Raja and to appoint the younger Rānī in her place to conduct them. Informs the Governor that the affairs of the country are in a ruinous state and requests him to act in such a manner that no one can blame her if this state of things continue. Hopes that the Governor will exert himself to maintain peace and

[1] May 27 according to the volume of copies.
[2] Probably a mistake for Shāmā Bāī.

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tranquillity in the country and save his loyal subjects from trouble thereby.

Trans. R., 1771, no 116, pp. 81-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 165.

June 5. **778.** From Sayyid Khādim ʽAlī Khān. Intimates that his deceased father Nawab Sayyid Khādim Ḥusain Khān was *Nāẓim* of Purnea. For a long time there subsisted a quarrel between him and Mīr Muḥammad Ṣādiq Khān, and to prevent this he quitted Purnea and took up his residence at Farrukhabad, where he breathed his last. His properties consisting of money, jewels, etc., amounting to *lākhs* of rupees were unlawfully seized by his villainous servants and slave women who were in attendance on him. The writer, who holds the honours of his deceased father, according to Nawab Aḥmad Khān's directions, sent a person to bring the servants back. The Nawab despatched them to Bengal together with all the properties, but on their way the women at the instigation of the servants remained at Lucknow. The writer asked them repeatedly to come with the properties of his deceased father but they paid no heed. Being despondent he represented the dishonesty of the servants to Mr Harry Verelst and obtained from him a letter (which the writer despatched through his *vakīl*) to the Vazīr desiring him to send them. As Mr Verelst was about to leave for Europe, the pernicious servants of his deceased father took advantage of his intended departure, bribed the servants of the Vazīr and Captain Harper, and thus compelled the *vakīl* to return after a year of fruitless trouble and hardship. Says that his salary and allowance as a *dārōghah* of the artillery have entirely been stopped by the death of Nawab Mīr Muḥammad Jaʽafar Khān. Requests the Governor to send a letter with two *harkārahs* to Captain Harper strongly urging him to assist them in acquiring the lost properties wherever they are found and to despatch them under a guard with a list of the articles. As the English always maintain the honour and prosperity of high families, the writer, who is a member of the family of the late Nawab Mīr Muḥammad Jaʽafar Khān, fervently hopes that the Governor will settle upon him a sum for his maintenance and order its payment at any place he thinks proper.

Trans. R., 1771, no 117, pp. 82-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 168.

June 6. **779.** From Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah. Had written a letter to the Governor after reaching Allahabad from the *sarāi* of Alam Chand, where he took leave of His Majesty. Hopes that the Governor has received it. Is perfectly well and is anxious to know of the Governor's welfare. On Thursday (23 May) His Majesty arrived safely at the banks of the Ganges near Jaujemow in the province of Kora. His Excellency the Vazīr and General Barker are in the enlightened Presence. Believes that from the correspondence of the General, the Governor is informed of all that took place in the Sublime Court and of His Majesty's negotiations with the Vazīr. When His Majesty honoured the writer by appointing him the manager of the Royal House and giving him the charge of the Bengal tribute, he issued a *shuqqah* to the Governor on this subject. As there exists a great friendship

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between him and Raja Shitāb Rāy, who is an adherent of the Governor and a well-wisher of the Company, the writer has entrusted the management of the Royal tribute to him. Requests the Governor to direct the officers of different places to remit the *qists* of the Bengal tribute through Raja Shitāb Rāy. The writer has a great regard for the Governor's friendship and is desirous of having an interview with him.

Trans. R., 1771, no 118, pp. 84-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 158.

June 7.[1] **780.** To Munīru'd-Daulah. Has received the letter of his friend the addressee, and is glad to hear of his agreeable situation at Allahabad. The addressee observes that he has entrusted to Raja Shitāb Rāy the management of the affairs of the Bengal tribute because of the long-standing friendship between them. The writer is also aware of their deep intimacy, their loyalty to His Majesty and their good wishes for the English Company, and has therefore advised the officers at Murshidabad to remit the *qists* in future through Raja Shitāb Rāy as was done before. The Raja is to forward the Royal receipts to the writer in order to take his directions for the payment of the drafts. Hopes that the addressee will correspond with the writer, who is ever anxious to know about his welfare, every now and then.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 128, p. 50. Trans. I., 1771, no 45, p. 27. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 101.

June 8. **781.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Recapitulates the substance of Mr Cartier's letter desiring him to stop the French erecting a factory at Chandia [2] without the sanction of the Government, and asserts that what the Governor has done in this respect is just and proper. The reply which the writer sent to the French under the direction of the Governor in order to stop the erection of a factory at Chandia in the dependency of Choudagong [3] was correct and to the point. Forwards the following particulars for the Governor's information. Some time ago the writer heard that the French intended to erect a new factory at Chandia and had written to the French Director strongly opposing it. He received no reply notwithstanding his repeated objections. A few days later he received information from the members of the Council that in defiance of his repeated warnings the French had despatched some of their men to Chandia and employed them to erect a new factory there. Having learnt this he immediately ordered the people of the *sarkār* to turn the French out of Chandia and not to allow them to remain in its neighbourhood. Thereupon the French replied that they had purchased a plot of land from the *zamīndārs* and intended to erect a new factory and to dismantle the one they had at Jugdia. The writer said in reply that the *zamīndār* had no power to sell a plot of land to any body without the permission of the Government and that they would never be allowed to erect a factory at Chandia without the consent of the *Nāẓim* of

[1] June 14 according to the volume of copies.
[2] The volume of translations gives 'Chandelia,' evidently a mistake.
[3] The volume of translations gives 'Judagong,' evidently a mistake.

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that place. If they wanted to save their factory at Jugdia from the danger of being washed away, they might have selected any other site in the same *parganah* and informed the writer thereof, so that he could have given his directions to the officers at Dacca in this matter. Encloses a copy of his reply which he despatched to the French for the Governor to read. The matter is still unsettled because the French have neither answered his letter nor requested any other plot of land in the *parganah* of Jugdia. In obedience to the order of the Governor, the writer will assign a plot of land to the French in the *parganah* of Choudagong and ask the *zamīndārs* to return the money if they have received any from the French people for the sale of their land. Intimates that having understood the particulars of the Governor's letter to Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah, he delivered it to him. A reply to this will bring home to the Governor all the particulars. Forwards, through Raja Kāshī Nāth, a *parvānah* from the Nawab to the French Director fobidding them to erect a new factory at Chandia and giving them another plot of land at Jugdia. If the Governor approves of it, the writer requests him to direct the Raja to forward it to the *Faujdār* of Hooghly, who will deliver it to the French Director in behalf of the Nawab. Has also written to Muḥammad 'Alī Khān [*Faujdār* of Hooghly] on this subject.

A *parvānah* from Muḥammad Riẓā Khān to Mr Chevalier, dated the 3rd May 1771. Has fully understood the contents of the addressee's letter for building a new factory at Chandia and dismantling the old one at Jugdia. The addressee in defiance of repeated prohibitions from the *Nizāmat*, has stationed there some of his men in order to carry on the work. Is of opinion that the French, in spite of frequent warnings from the *Nizāmat*, are bent on establishing a factory in the *parganah* of Choudagong. The *Nizāmat* has therefore despatched some sepoys to ask the French to quit the place at once. As the *zamīndārs* of Choudagong cannot sell any plot of land without the consent of the *Nāzim* or the direction of the acting *Nāib* of Dacca, the writer is not prepared to believe that the addressee has purchased any from them.

Trans. R., 1771, no 119, pp. 85-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 159.

June 8. 782. Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah to Mr Chevalier. Has repeatedly warned the addressee not to erect a factory at Chandia [1] in the *parganah* of Choudagong,[2] but without paying any heed he has started the work. It was certainly an improper action on his part. Has despatched some men to turn the French out of that place for this disobedience. Has now made up his mind not to give them any plot of land in that *parganah*. As their factory at Jugdia is situated on the river side and is always in danger of being washed away, the writer allows them to build a new factory far from the river side in the same *parganah*. Has also communicated this to Himmat Singh [an officer at Dacca].

Trans. R., 1771, no 120, pp. 89, 90.

[1] The volume of translations gives 'Chandelea,' evidently a mistake.
[2] The volume of translations gives 'Joadgon,' evidently a mistake.

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June 8. **783.** From Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. To the same effect as the letter from Muhammad Rizā Khān, dated 8 June 1771. (*See above* no 781.)

Trans. R., 1771, no 121, p. 90.

June 12. **784.** From the King. Is perfectly well and ever anxious to know of the Governor's welfare. Intimates that he has given the fort of Allahabad to the Vazīr, the strong arm of the Empire. Desires the Governor, who is a friend and well-wisher of the Vazīr, to make it over to him. This will greatly please the writer.

Trans. R., 1771, no 122, pp. 90-1. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 156.

June 13. **785.** From Mirzā Najaf Khān. Requests the Governor to write letters frequently. Intimates that he has taken Rs. 33,333-7-0 in advance being his salary for two months out of his annual stipend. Has delivered a receipt under his seal to Captain Brooke who will forward it to the Governor.

Trans. R., 1771, no 123, p. 91. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 160.

June 13. **786.** General Barker to Nawab Ahmad Khān. Has received his letter expressing his happiness at the arrival of His Majesty at Kora with a large number of Royal troops, complimenting the writer on his work in the consolidation of the Empire, and also stating that his people are happy and are hoping that the State will be better administered and the glory of the Royal House enhanced. This letter was brought by Sayyid Sibghatu'l-lah and its contents afforded the writer great pleasure. The long-established friendly relations are still on the same footing and will continue. The writer made in the Presence all the representations that appeared to him proper and advisable, but His Majesty listened to nothing; he was determined to carry out the plan he had already conceived. The writer therefore does not interfere any more with his intentions. Has accompanied His Majesty to Kora because his favours to the English *sardārs* and their loyalty and obedience to him are invariable. Will now take leave of His Majesty and part from him. The writer will never be found deficient in promoting his friendship with the addressee.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 76, p. 53.

June 13. **787.** General Barker to Fathu'l-lah Khān. Has received his letter expressing satisfaction at the sincerity of the writer's friendship with the late Nawab [Dūndī Khān] which fact was reported to him by Nawab Bahāu'd-Daulah and Mīr Ghulām Muhammad and setting forth a proposal, which has been much delayed and could not be carried out on account of the illness and death of the late Nawab, for sending a trustworthy man as his deputy. The writer is grieved to hear of the death of the late Nawab, who was one of the most remarkable men of the present day. The addressee is competent enough to manage the State affairs and is always firm in his attachment and devotion to the throne, and pays great attention to the counsel and advice of the writer. Mūl Chand, the *vakīl* has also given the writer detailed news of the

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above. The writer does no longer interfere in the affairs of His Majesty, for he paid no heed to his representations. In consideration of the Royal favours of bygone days he is accompanying His Majesty, but will shortly take leave of him and return. Hopes that the friendship subsisting between the addressee and himself will increase.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 77, p. 107.

June 14. **788**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Acknowledges the receipt of his two letters each accompanying a present of ten melons. Offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 129, pp. 50-1.

June 16. **789**. To Bābū Jai Nāik. A few months ago Mr Allen left his factory at Cuttack and came to Calcutta on private business. Having regard for the friendship that subsists between Raja Jānūjī Bhonsla and the English *sardārs*, the writer is sending the gentleman back to his factory, as he had discharged his duties there most creditably. He has had to put up with much trouble. The old officials being unfriendly to him he is still owed a large sum of money, and cannot recover it. As the addressee holds supreme control in those parts, the writer hopes that he will do his best to help Mr Allen, who is sent to Cuttack again. The writer has every confidence in him, because for the last seven years nothing against his reputation and conduct was ever heard of; he had therefore never deserved the trouble and oppression to which he was subjected. However what is done cannot be undone and the writer must forget all that happened in the past. Hopes that the addressee will henceforth listen to all that the gentleman says and redress his grievances.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 130, p. 51.

June 16. **790**. To Lakhmānjī Jāchak. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 131, pp. 51-2.

June 16. **791**. General Barker to 'Ināyatu'l-lah Khān. Has received his letter reporting that he has seen Nawab Ḥāfiẓu'l-Mulk and made representations to him, and asking the writer to conceive a good scheme and communicate it through Mirzā Ṣāliḥ. There is no change in the state of affairs here [Kora] and hence nothing noteworthy. The said Mirzā has left this place. Hopes to receive letters until they meet.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 78, p. 107.

June 17. **792**. From Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah. Intimates that during the last rains the Ganges overflowed because of its embankment being in a ruinous state, and caused much trouble and hardship to the inhabitants of the neighbouring countries. His Majesty, with a view to relieving the sufferings of the inhabitants, directed Colonel Gailliez to

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repair the embankment and issued a bill for Rs 40,000 to cover the cost of the repairs. Having learnt that the officers at Murshidabad have not yet forwarded the said amount to the Colonel, His Majesty advised the writer to ask the addressee to order the officers to send the amount as soon as possible to Colonel Gailliez. Requests the addressee therefore to act in accordance with the Royal instructions, so that the embankment may speedily be repaired and the people may be relieved from further trouble.

Trans. R., 1771, no 124, pp. 91-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 158.

June 17.* **793**. General Barker to the King. The proposal made in the Presence for supplying His Majesty with two battalions cannot, in the opinion of the writer, remain a secret as Aḥmad Khān's *vakīls*, who are in the Royal camp, are fully aware of it. It does not seem advisable for His Majesty to encamp in the neighbourhood of Farrukhabad as has been proposed. It is better to encamp at Bhuttore because the battalions of the English will then remain with him, but if he stops at Farrukhabad, they will leave him and return to Allahabad. There is not much distance between Farrukhabad and Bhuttore while the latter is particularly suitable for a halting station, because the sentiments of the people and their negotiations with others can be easily ascertained from there. The writer lays before His Majesty everything that appears to him good for the Empire; if it meets with his approval, it will certainly bring about a favourable result; if not, His Majesty is the master of his own will.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 79, p. 110.

June 18.[1] **794**. To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. The good of His Excellency's country, the welfare of the people and His Excellency's satisfaction have ever been the principal objects of the writer's heart. In their desire to add to the prosperity of His Excellency's country and to that of the Company as well, the members of the Council have passed a resolution to the following effect. The exports of Europe such as broadcloth, lead, iron, etc., and the produce of this province [Bengal] will be carried to the inhabitants of His Excellency's country; the writer has issued a *dastak* under the seal of the Company for trade in these articles as far up as Buxar. The people of the King and His Excellency will thus find an opportunity of purchasing such articles as are not produced or manufactured in their own country, and take advantage of it. This will increase His Excellency's revenue and enhance the prosperity of his country. The resolution passed by the members of the Council is mutually advantageous, but its success depends greatly on the generosity of His Excellency, who is requested to impose such customs as will leave ample profit to the dealers. Hopes that he will adhere to the same customs as were formerly imposed on similar articles in his country and promote the object of the resolution, which has been passed solely with a view to securing general good. It is needless to point out to His Excellency, whose wisdom and experience are known far and wide, how much the prosperity of a country depends upon its trade and how the English *sardārs* exerted themselves to make it a

[1] June 28 according to the volume of copies.

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success by removing all obstacles and opening roads free from danger. It is already observed in the beginning of this letter that the Company's *dastak* will carry the goods of the merchants as far up as Buxar, and in order to proceed further on, His Excellency's *parvānah* is needed. As any delay will be harmful to the merchants, His Excellency is requested to appoint a *chaukī*, which can realize the duties customary in his country and grant receipts for them. The merchants will then be at liberty to take their goods to any market they please.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 133, pp. 53-4. Trans. I., 1771, no 46, pp. 27-9. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 106.

June 20. **795.** General Barker to the King. Is delighted to receive his *shuqqah* containing the Royal instructions. His Majesty argues against the representations of the writer in respect of the halt and march of the Royal troops. The reasons put forth may look sound to him but the writer can never agree with them. It was the writer's devotion and loyalty to His Majesty that prompted him to act in a manner that could only be conducive to the good of the throne. Says that he is very sorry at this move of His Majesty, who (it is strange) took no notice of the disturbed state of the capital and of the quarrels and differences among the Mahratta *sardārs*, and set himself upon this enterprise without thinking of any reliable scheme for his own security. The Royal march can by no means be safe during such stirring times, although His Majesty has said that he will give the Mahrattas a surprise visit and then march his army back by way of Farrukhabad. It is expedient not to shake off the protection of the English *sardārs* until a plan is devised for his personal security, because it is likely to bring some unforeseen calamity upon him. His Majesty has further remarked that his stay at Kora will increase his expenses; but the writer cannot understand how the march of the Royal troops through Farrukhabad will curtail them! Is certain that Aḥmad Khān's circumstances do not allow him to contribute to the upkeep of the Royal troops during their stay at Farrukhabad; the expenditure will then be much greater. Besides the dearness of grain and other necessaries His Majesty will have to pay Rs 24,000 towards the salary of the two battalions; if it is not paid regularly every month, men will desert. Moreover every coin that is spent over the Royal army [at Farrukhabad] will run out of Allahabad and Kora, so that *lākhs* of rupees will go to the Rohilla country, causing a fall in the revenue of those two places. The rains have now set in and the Royal march, if continued, will end in disaster. It does not seem to be of any advantage until there is concord among the Mahratta *sardārs*. As an expression of his loyalty and fidelity the writer makes another representation and hopes that His Majesty will duly consider it. So long as His Majesty stops at Kora or at Bhuttoie, the English troops will be at his service and protect the Royal territories, because it will enhance the honour of the English. If, which God forbid, His Majesty goes beyond the boundaries of Kora and sustains a defeat [at the hands of the Mahrattas], the English *sardārs* will not hold themselves responsible for

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it. If, in disregard of these representations, His Majesty is determined to march on, the writer will send the two Royal battalions to the Presence and come personally to take his leave.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 80, pp. 112-16.

June 21. **796.** To Bābū Jai Nāik and Lakhmānji Jāchak. One of the officers of the King of England is going to Madras by land. He will hand this letter over to the addressees. Requests them to supply the officer with litter-carriers, coolies, food and all that he may require. This will greatly please the writer.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 132, p. 52.

June 21.[1] **797.** To the mother of Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Asks her to send Lāla Umī Chand immediately to Calcutta.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 134, p. 54. Trans. I., 1771, no 47, p. 29. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 105.

June 22. **798.** From Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Informs the Governor that he had had an audience with His Majesty on 30 April and made repeated representations against his move [to Shahjahanabad], but to no purpose. During his absence of two months and a half from the Presence, he frequently wrote to General Barker requesting him to stop His Majesty's departure, but the General's attempt failed. Finding that His Majesty was firm in his determination, the writer and the General both remained silent. His Majesty, on his departure, asked him for the supply of bullock-carts, money and troops, and even proposed that his (the writer's) son should accompany the Royal equipage. For fear of incurring His Majesty's displeasure the writer consented to supply all the things and also to allow his son with an army to attend the Royal march. Thinking that disputes might arise between the English *sardārs* and the Mahrattas in the Deccan, the writer gave up the idea of sending his son with His Majesty; he advanced the King 10,000 horse and foot, bullock-carts and money as loan. Believing that if His Majesty joins the Mahrattas without any troops he will be entirely in their hands, the writer ordered his troops to accompany him. Believes that General Barker has informed the Governor about the plan that was decided upon at Benares. Says that he tried his best to win over the Afghāns and the Rohillas and to have an interview with Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān in order to carry it out, but this gentleman did not come and the scheme fell through. Asserts that both the writer and the General then accompanied His Majesty to Cawnpore. 'Today' (3 June) he took leave of His Majesty and reached the fort of Allahabad. Says that he is always ready to join the English in war against the Mahrattas and other people when occasion requires. Will continue to be a friend of the English till death.

Trans. R., 1771, no 125, pp. 92-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 167.

June 22.[2] **799.** To Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. Is delighted to receive his letter accompanying a *nazr* of 101 gold mohurs and to hear that Shaikh 'Alī Naqī waited on him with the khal'at, which was bestowed

[1] July 3 according to the volume of copies.
[2] July 11 according to the volume of copies.

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on him in the garden of Mādhū Dās. Hopes that the addressee will always write about his welfare and all that happens in that part of the country.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 136, p. 54. Trans. I., 1771, no 48, p. 29.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 98.

June 22. **800**. General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. A few days ago a sepoy with a special guard went on some business to Bibipur in the *parganah* of Jaujemow within the *chaklah* of Kora. Ḥājī 'Alī K͟hān with the aid of Hādī 'Alī K͟hān, a *zamīndār* of Bibipur killed the sepoy and absconded by crossing the river. It is said that he has taken refuge at Atharni, a place in His Excellency's territories and is residing with a certain friend of his relatives named Bak͟htāwar K͟hān. The man is an offender against the *sarkār* and a resident of Bibipur. The writer did not send any man there to arrest him because it lies in His Excellency's country. Requests him therefore to issue strict orders to his officers in the said *parganah* to look for the man and arrest him and to send him to the writer.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 81, pp. 116-18.

June 24. **801**. General Barker to the King. It is now four days since the writer submitted an *'arzī* stating all that appeared to him good for the prosperity of the throne, but received no reply to it. Requests His Majesty to favour him with a reply to his representations as he is only waiting for it. The rains have set in and the writer has many important engagements in the east. Is therefore expecting the Royal commands every moment, for his engagements do not admit of any further delay.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 82, pp. 118-20.

June 26. **802**. General Barker to Najaf K͟hān. Is much pleased to receive his letter containing an account of his negotiations with His Majesty, referring the writer to Bishunāth Paṇḍit for further particulars and soliciting the writer's advice on the present situation. The Paṇḍit has given the writer complete information of the negotiations which have greatly upset and disappointed him. However 'things are what they are and the consequences of them will be what they will be.' The Paṇḍit within the next four or five days will tell him how matters stand here and what course the addressee should take in order to cope with his present situation. Hopes that he will always correspond with the writer until the occasion of a personal meeting presents itself.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 83, p. 120.

June 26. **803**. General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received his letter and fully understood its contents. The latest news is this: that His Majesty intends to march on and encamp at Farrukhabad for a few days but this is not yet definitely settled. Hopes that His Excellency will communicate to the writer anything he has heard of the Royal resolution or hears of in the future. Requests His Excellency to write letters, for correspondence is held to be half an interview.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 84, pp. 120-2.

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June 26. **804**. General Barker to Nawab Munīr-u'd-Daulah. Is delighted to receive his letter. His Majesty has not yet marched from Bhuttore but will probably do so shortly. As soon as His Majesty marches on, the writer will take his leave and part from him.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 85, p. 22.

June 26. **805**. General Barker to Raja Chait Singh. One Dēb Chand, brother and *gumāshtah* of Jhām Bajha, who is a *bepārī* of Colonelganj and an inhabitant of Phulpur, has lodged a complaint with the writer to the following effect. Sayyid Dīdār Jahān, a *zamīndar* of *parganah* Mahul, declines to repay Rs. 2,357 which he took on loan from Jhām, and has wrongfully confined his mother and extorted Rs. 2,700 from her. Asks the addressee therefore to inquire into the case against Dīdār Jahān, because it lies within his jurisdiction. If Jhām proves his claim and satisfies the *panchāyat* and *mahājanī* in this respect, the addressee, it is expected, will help him to recover the amount in full from Dīdār Jahān in order to avoid further complaint. The addressee must also issue strict orders to his officers not to delay the matter or show partiality in investigating it.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 86, p. 124.

June 27. **806**. General Barker to the King. Is delighted beyond measure to receive his *shuqqah* asking the writer to wait upon His Majesty 'to-morrow' 14 [*Rabī'*I], when the King will set out at an auspicious hour, and says that the Royal *pēsh-khīma* is being sent 'to-day' the 13th. Had the writer been informed a day earlier, he could certainly be in the Presence 'to-morrow'; but as he is to return by water, he must despatch his tents and boats 'to-morrow' the 14th, and will therefore attend upon His Majesty the 'day after to-morrow' the 15th, accompanying the two battalions for him. He will then take his formal leave and return.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 87, pp. 124-6.

June 27. **807**. General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. The addressee will perhaps remember that when he was leaving Calcutta on being appointed by His Majesty to discharge the Royal affairs, he asked Mr Russell, Mr Floyer and the writer to keep money for the Bengal tribute ready at Murshidabad until the *dākhilah* arrives; the addressee would then receive it at Allahabad according to the established custom. Therefore the money for the *dākhilah* of 5 *lākhs* due to the *Sarkār* is nearly ready for remittance to Allahabad and arrangement is being made for the little which it remains to collect. In order to collect that remainder they have arranged to borrow from the bankers. This will be quicker; for it takes time to collect the revenue and a sufficient sum is not always immediately available in the treasury. Is surprised to learn that the arrangement made by the addressee is not acted upon, because His Majesty has personally given the *dākhilah* for one year to others; this will occasion a great loss to those gentlemen. Says that if the *dākhilah* is not received in the manner agreed upon, it will be treated like former *dākhilahs* which

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produced nothing and were a total failure. The addressee is asked to send a prompt reply, which will be communicated to those gentlemen in order to save them loss and trouble. They and the writer will then wash their hands of this business.

PS.—If the addressee's arrangement is not acted upon, it will cause a great loss to those gentlemen, who have collected the money with his advice to pay the revenue when the *dākhilah* is received.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 88, pp. 126-8.

June 28. **808.** From Raja Chait Singh. Acknowledges the receipt of a *khal'at*, elephant, etc., through his *vakīl*, Shaikh 'Alī Naqī. Sends a *nazr* of 101 gold mohurs to the Governor on the occasion. Hopes he will accept it. Says that he is not unmindful of the directions of the Vazīr and of his attachment to the English Company.

Trans. R., 1771, no 126, p. 94. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 161.

June 28. **809.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāzim* of Behar. Has received his letter recommending Chhōṭū Rām Singh, brother of Raja Murlī Dhar, deceased, for the post of his brother, and understood its contents. The writer, prior to the receipt of the addressee's letter, enquired all about the nominee and wrote to the Members of the Council at Patna to see if he was fit to hold the rank of his deceased brother, and asked them, if they thought him so, to appoint him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 135, p. 54. Trans. I., 1771, no 49, p. 29. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 103.

June 30. **810.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy. 'To-day' (14 June) a paper of news has arrived to the following effect. His Majesty arrived at Jaujemow by forced marches and encamped there. On 3 June the Vazīr, having been invested with a *khal'at* consisting of a *sarpēch*, a string of pearls, an elephant, a horse and a sabre, took leave of His Majesty. Sa'ādat 'Alī Khān, the Vazīr's son, also accompanied his father with the permission of the King. General Barker had asked His Majesty for leave which he was promised two days later.

On 20 May Rām Chandar Ganēsh, whom Raja Mādhū Rāo had suspended from the command of his forces, received a letter from Visājī Pandit advising him, if he approves of the Raja's plan of setting out for the Deccan, to go with him ; otherwise, he is expected to return to the Paṇḍit, who will give him the charge of the baggage and implements of war and himself set out for the Deccan. Says that having despatched this letter the Paṇḍit encamped on the other side of Ghaziuddinnagar facing Seckartore[1].

Takōjī Hulkar with 6,000 and Mahājī Sindhia with 5,000 horse set out for Palwal to bring back Rām Chandar Ganēsh. They accordingly brought him back, but enmity still subsists between Visājī Paṇḍit, Rām Chandar Ganēsh and Takōjī Hulkar. They have not yet evacuated the fort of Shahjahanabad and its neighbouring districts.

Trans. R., 1771, no 127, pp. 94-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 163.

[1] Probably a mistake for Shikarpore.

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July 2. **811.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Intimates that on 16 June he received the *sanads*, which Raja Shitāb Rāy had despatched by the hands of his *vakīl*, for the *Nizāmat* and *Faujdārī* [of Bengal, Behar and Orissa] granted to Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah by His Majesty. Has confided all the particulars that Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah had written about the seven *khal'ats* to his [the writer's] *vakīl*, Raja Kāshī Nāth, who will communicate them to His Excellency. Will act according to His Excellency's directions in the matter.

Trans. R., 1771, no 128, pp. 95-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 159.

July 5. **812.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has already informed the Governor of the particulars of the Vazīr's dismissal from the Presence at Jaujemow.[1] Has transmitted all the intelligence he had gathered about the Mahratta *sardārs*. Believes that the Governor has read it. His Majesty will never consent to build quarters for his troops for the ensuing rains as was proposed by his officers some time ago. Has learnt 'today' (19 June) from the correspondence of a reliable person that His Majesty has issued orders for the erection of eleven bungalows at Bhuttore near Kora. It is therefore presumed that until the Mahrattas evacuate the fort of Shahjahanabad and it comes into His Majesty's possession, he will never set out for the capital. Accordingly His Majesty has despatched Yāqūt Khān (one of the Royal eunuchs) with seven *khal'ats* and bills for 2 *lākhs* of rupees to Shahjahanabad. If on his arrival the eunuch reports that the Mahrattas have evacuated the fort, His Majesty will then set out for the capital. As to the Mahratta *sardārs* they are divided by internal feuds. Takōjī Hulkar and Mahājī Sindhia have joined forces and want Rām Chandar Ganēsh to have the command of the army again; but Visājī Paṇḍit will not consent to this and his deputy acting under his sole orders is in possession of the fort. In order to guard the fort and to prevent other *sardārs* from occupying it, he has pitched his tents by the side of the river and keeps a vigilant watch over the *Qal'ahdār*. Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān negotiated in vain with the Mahrattas for the evacuation of the fort. Having failed to come to any terms on account of their private quarrels he did not return to His Majesty's Court. *Paṭēl*[2] *Ṣāḥib* has consented to evacuate the fort, while Takōjī Hulkar desires to form an alliance with the Rohillas. Visājī Paṇḍit on the other hand opposes both these schemes and says that he proposes to act with complete independence. The correspondence of the Paṇḍit and Rām Chandar Ganēsh has been transmitted to Mādhū Rāo and an answer is expected. The Mahrattas are encamped on the other side of the Jumna river in the town of Shahjahanabad. Consequently each *sardār* has selected a large house for his residence and is removing his baggage and artillery across the Jumna. This has greatly increased the price of grain.

Trans. R., 1771, no 129, pp. 96-8. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 163.

July 6. **813.** From Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received information from the reporters and from the copies of orders issued from Murshidabad

[1] A town about 4 miles to the east of Cawnpore.

[2] *Paṭēl* means the headman of a Mahratta village. Here a title of Mādhōjī Sindhia.

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and other places that the English *sardārs* have given every one a general permission for trade. The English *sardārs* probably think that trade is advantageous both to the country and its ryots. The writer sees certain drawbacks in it. He sincerely wishes that the friendship which subsists between him and the English *sardārs* may day by day wax in strength, unhindered. But when merchants come to trade in his country they will build themselves quarters to live in and factories to protect their goods, and will appoint sepoys and peons to look after them. Says that as the *gumāshtahs* and other employees of the English *sardārs* oppress the ryots in the execution of their masters' affairs, they will therefore make trouble over the payment of duties at the Custom House. It is evident that the *chaukīdārs* will demand the dues but they will try to force the *chaukīs* without paying anything. Requests the Governor to dictate measures to be taken if any quarrel arises between the *gumāshtahs* of the English and the *chaukīdārs* and *'āmils* of the writer. The merchants and *gumāshtahs* will certainly write to their masters and superiors if any dispute arises. As they have personal access to the Governor's presence the writer is afraid that they may by insinuating all kinds of falsehood break up 'our' friendship. Says that they will carry goods to the country for sale and deprive it of its cash. They will also deal in saltpetre which the English have stopped. In such cases the writer believes that disputes may arise. Asks the Governor to let him know what he thinks it best to do. Desires him also to make such arrangement as will prevent merchants from entering his [the writer's] country without obtaining the Governor's *parvānah*. In this way it will be clearly known what merchants have arrived, and if anything happens it can be easily found out. Is ever anxious to know of the Governor's welfare and hopes to receive letters from him every now and then.

Trans. R., 1771, no 130, pp. 98-101. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 167.

July — **814.** An *'arẓī* from Monsieur Chevalier, Director of the French East India Company, in answer to Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah's *parvānah* dated 4 June 1771, received by the hands of the Nawab's *vakīl*. Has received the Nawab's letter prohibiting him from building a factory at Chandia [1] and giving him permission to erect one at Jugdia or in its dependencies at a distance from the sea: the people of the *Niẓāmat* will point out the site. Has before this repeatedly written to the addressee that at Jugdia the writer cannot find a place for a factory which is not liable to be washed away by the sea. It would no doubt be better if the French could find a site for a factory at Jugdia, but there is hardly a spot which is not under water during the rains, and there is no river to export their goods. For these reasons they are building a factory at Chandia which is near the *arang* and has a river close by. Considers it extremely dangerous to build a factory at Jugdia : it is certain to end in an entire loss of property. If the addressee disapproves of a factory being built at Chandia in the *parganah* of Choudagong an explicit answer is requested, so that he may close his business and leave the country to avoid any loss. Prays that the addressee will honour

[1] The volume of translations gives 'Chandalea,' evidently a mistake.

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him with a *parvanāh* granting him permission to build a factory at Chandia, because it will not cause the Nawab any loss whatsoever. Will ever pray for the addressee's welfare and prosperity.

Trans. R., 1771, no 131, pp. 101-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 159.

July 8. **815.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Sends a *nazr* of 15 gold mohurs on the occasion of the *Puniā.*

Trans. R., 1771, no 132, p. 103.

July 8. **816.** General Barker to the King. When the writer waited upon His Majesty in order to take his leave, His Majesty announced to the nobles of the State that he had given the fort of Allahabad to the Vazīr, and he directed the writer to make it over to him. During the same interview it also appeared from subsequent words of His Majesty that he was not in favour of delivering the fort to the Vazīr. If His Majesty really wishes the writer to deliver the fort to Nawab Shujā'-u'd-Daulah, he will do it; if not, he will keep it in his possession and guard it. Last month, there being no money in the treasury, the writer disbursed the salary of the two battalions of the *Sarkār* from his private purse. Of this month there were two or three days left, when he took leave of His Majesty; he could not pay the battalions because in the first place it was against the English procedure to do so before the month ended, and in the second place he had no money with him.

PS.—After this *'arẓī* was completed the writer received a letter from the Gentlemen at Calcutta: they say that they are ready to carry out the Royal commands as they have always done in the past. They have received the Royal *shuqqah* asking them to make over the Allahabad fort to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah and they say that there is no harm in giving it up if His Majesty desires the English to withdraw their protection completely from Allahabad and Kora and have nothing to do with them. But if His Majesty desires them to continue to guard those districts, they require a place for keeping the garrison and war materials. For this the fort is the only suitable place in the whole of Allahabad and Kora. Hopes that His Majesty will duly consider this and favour the writer with a reply. It should be clearly notified to the English *sardārs* whether they are to withhold themselves from protecting Allahabad and Kora by leaving the fort, or whether they are to continue to hold it. In any case a straightforward answer is requested, for they utter no ambiguous words nor do they understand them.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 89, pp. 128-32.

July 9. **817.** General Barker to Ẓābiṭah Khān. Is very glad to receive his letter. Has returned to Allahabad after taking his leave of His Majesty. As the writer intended to go eastwards there was no use in taking Ratan Singh with him. He therefore dismissed him at Allahabad. Ratan Singh was ever diligent and ready in the discharge of his duties.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 90, pp. 132-4.

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July 9. **818.** General Barker to 'Ināyatu'l-lah Khān. Is very glad to receive his letter. He returned to Allahabad after taking leave of His Majesty.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 91, p. 134.

July 10. **819.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has already reported to the Governor the particulars of the murder of Raja Murlī Dhar, who was an adherent of the *Sarkār* and a well-wisher of the Company. Chhōṭū Singh, the brother of the deceased, who, during the lifetime of the Raja, managed the *harkārahs* of the *Nizāmat* and of the Company, is now dependent upon the Governor. Bearing in mind the dead man's services, the writer desires the Governor to appoint Chhōṭū Singh in the place of his brother so as to provide for his family, who will ever pray for the Company's prosperity.

Trans. R., 1771, no 133, pp. 103-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 163.

July 12. **820.** From Munnī Bēgam. Offers compliments.

Trans. R., 1771, no 134, p. 104.

July 13. **821.** General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Has received his letter and understood all about the *dākhilahs*. It is surprising that the Royal Court should be so inconsistent in the matter of the *dākhilahs*. His Majesty says that in addition to the old *dākhilah* for 5 *lākhs* a fresh one for about five or six *lākhs* was handed over to the addressee. When the addressee was leaving Calcutta to take charge of the Royal Household, it was decided in the presence of Messrs Russell and Floyer that the *dākhilah* transaction would be carried on through them, to which the addressee consented. Thereupon those gentlemen collected money in cash to meet the payment of the *dākhilahs*, immediately these were received from the Presence. They still have the money with them. When the King was informed of the arrangement, he denied all knowledge of it and said that the addressee was solely responsible for it. It is strange that His Majesty wrote a few days ago in a *shuqqah* to Mr Cartier that the payment of the Bengal tribute would be made by Messrs Russell and Floyer through the writer, and now in another *shuqqah* to him His Majesty says that he has delegated the business to Raja Shitāb Rāy, as he used to do before. This will cause a great loss to those gentlemen who collected money to meet the payment of the *dākhilahs*. What can one think of such actions? It appears that His Majesty has written this *shuqqah* at the instigation of the addressee. This is inconsistent with true friendship and the addressee cannot expect anything in future from the writer.

When the writer was in the Presence he recommended to the King's favour Mr Middleton, an officer in the *Sarkār's* battalion, who had been wounded in the battle in the fort of Kora and invalided by the loss of an arm in the *Sarkār's* service. His Majesty accepted the recommendation and told the writer to refer the matter to the addressee. It is said that in addition to the 1 *lākh* granted to the writer a sum of Rs 50,000 has been sanctioned for others. If this sum has not been entirely given away, it is requested that the balance, if any, may be

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paid to the said officer. Has received the *dākhilah* for the 1 *lākh* presented to the writer by His Hajesty. Requests the addressee to convey his respectful and loyal thanks to His Majesty for this favour.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 92, pp. 134-8.

July 13. **822.** General Barker to Raja Hindū Pat. The writer has heard nothing from him for a long time. It is said the Mahrattas have created disturbances towards the south of the addressee's country. Hopes that in consideration of the friendly relations existing between him and the English *sardārs*, the addressee will give detailed news of that quarter [Bundelkhand] and of his own situation, in order to enable the writer to take such measures as may tend to their mutual advantage. The negotiations that have passed between the addressee and Captain Brooke are highly commendable. Has also learnt that the people, who used to go to the addressee's country for the purchase and sale of diamonds, have stopped their business by reason of those disturbances. Some gentlemen in England wish the writer to purchase them diamonds for 4 *lākhs*; he has therefore sent two men named Ṣūbā Sēṭh and Harī Jhā to the addressee's country for that purpose. It now appears that they are not allowed to enter the country because either the road is closed on account of the disturbances or his people oppose them. Requests him to issue a *parvānah* to them, so that they may buy the required diamonds and return, and no one molest them on the way. This will greatly please the writer and promote his friendship with the addressee.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 93, pp. 138-40.

July 15. **823.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has already communicated to the Governor His Majesty's commands to erect eleven bungalows at Bhuttore. Believes that the Governor has understood them. Has learnt 'to-day' (Wednesday, 26 June), from a reliable source, that having left Jaujemow on 16 June, His Majesty encamped at Bhuttore and ordered his tents to be pitched at Surajpur. The Mahrattas, on account of the differences subsisting among them, have not yet delivered the fort of Shahjahanabad to the *Sarkār*. His Majesty takes no notice of this and proposes to continue his march till he arrives at Farrukhabad. Will inform the Governor of all the news he receives hereafter.

Trans. R., 1771, no 135, p. 104. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 163.

July 16. **824.** From Bābū Jai Nāik, *Ṣūbahdār* of Cuttack. Sets forth the friendship which subsists between his master, the Raja [Jānūjī Bhonsla] and the English *sardārs* and prays that it may daily increase in strength. Refers Mr Cartier to Mr Weeks'[1] correspondence for further particulars.

Trans. R., 1771, no 136, p. 104.

July 18. **825.** From Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Informs Mr Cartier that he received the *farmāns* and *sanads* for the *ṣūbahdārī* of Bengal, Behar and Orissa granted by His Majesty. The *khal'at* was handed over to him by Mr Alexander, Mr Middleton and Nawab Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Offers compliments to Mr Cartier on the occasion.

Trans. R., 1771, no 137, p. 105.

[1] The volume wrongly gives 'Weches,' but the name has not certainly been identified.

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July 18. **826**. General Barker to the King. Has received the *dākhilah* for 1 *lākh* of rupees and forwarded it to the East [Murshidabad]. Offers thanks for the Royal favours and requests His Majesty to send him other *dākhilahs* also in this manner. Says that he has heard nothing about His Majesty's affairs since the Royal Standard marched from Bhuttore and encamped at Farrukhabad. Hopes that His Majesty will exalt the writer with his *shuqqah*. Had before this submitted an *'arzī* regarding the transfer of the fort of Allahabad [to the Vazīr], but until now he has received no reply. He now hears that the Vazīr has raised four battalions of sepoys and is sending them under Sa'ādat 'Alī Khān to take charge of the fort and stay there. Requests His Majesty to inform him clearly of the Royal will in this matter, so that he may act accordingly.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 94, pp. 140-2.

July 19. **827**. To Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Is delighted to hear that he received the *farmāns* and *sanads* from His Majesty for the *ṣūbahdārī* of Bengal, Behar and Orissa, together with a *khal'at, jīghah, sarpech* set with jewels, sword and string of pearls, which were handed over to him by Mr Alexander, Mr Middleton and Nawab Khān Khānān Bahādur Muẓaffar Jang [Muḥammad Riẓā Khān], according to established custom. Congratulates him on the occasion.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 137, pp. 54-5. Trans. I., 1771, no 50, p. 30. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 102.

July 20. **828**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has already informed the Governor of His Majesty's arrival at Bhuttore and of the Royal commands to send forward the tents to Surajpur. Has learnt 'today' (Wednesday, 17 July) from a paper of news that His Majesty left Surajpur on 4 July and arrived at Makanpur, 7 *kōs* distant. His Majesty proposes to continue his march till he arrives at Farrukhabad. Nawab Aḥmad Khān, Khudādād Khān and Mihrbān Khān have set out to meet His Majesty. Yāqūt Khān, the Royal eunuch, reached Shahjahanabad with Rs 2,50,000 to bribe the Mahrattas to evacuate the fort. He interviewed the Mahratta *sardārs*, who, after the customary compliments, told him that they were ready to give up the fort if a security for the sum of 10 *lākhs* of rupees was given. The Khān replied that 5 *lākhs* of rupees out of 10 *lākhs* had already been paid to them; that Rs 2,50,000 were then ready for payment, while the balance of Rs 2,50,000 could be deducted from the account of Bakhtāwar Khān. At first they did not agree to this but afterwards they gave in and deducted the said sum from Bakhtāwar's account. Says that Yāqūt Khān also gave them a promissory note for Rs 1,50,000 more, payable upon their quitting the fort and removing at a distance from the country. Will inform the addressee of all that happens hereafter.

Trans. R., 1771, no 138, pp. 105-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 163.

July 20. **829**. General Barker to the King. Had requested Munīru'd-Daulah to pay the two Royal battalions, to defray the cost of repairing the Cawnpur fort and to pay for the grain and ammunition used at the

[1] July 15 according to the volume of Abstracts.

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time of the Mahratta inroad, but he replied that he could not do all this without His Majesty's orders. Encloses a detailed account of those items for His Majesty to see. Requests His Majesty that Munīru'd-Daulah may be ordered to clear the writer's account and given instructions how to dispose of the ammunition lying in the Cawnpur fort. It will be handed over to anybody whom His Majesty appoints. The grain accumulated in the fort is no longer required; it is being sold and the proceeds will be debited to His Majesty's account.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 95, p. 144.

July 23. **830**. General Barker to Mirzā Najaf Khān. Is delighted to receive his letter stating that he was unwilling to accompany His Majesty, as the pay of his men was not settled; that the people from the Court subsequently took him to His Majesty, who advanced him Rs 50,000 and promised to pay the balance when the account was cleared; and that he joined His Majesty out of his loyalty and devotion to him. Says in reply that it was most proper and advisable for him to seek His Majesty's pleasure, because as a chief of high position he has never been lacking in his loyalty to the throne. The distinguished conduct of the addressee in most of the King's undertakings has not only pleased His Majesty but has gained him a reputation among his contemporaries. The writer is greatly pleased to hear of the improvement in his circumstances and of the settlement of his claims.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 96, pp. 144-6.

July 24. **831**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. It has come to the knowledge of the writer that Sayyid Asadu'l-lah has been removed from his office of Qāẓī. As he is an old servant of the Company's, the addressee is asked to inquire fully into his case and not to appoint any one in his place without consulting the writer.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 138, p. 55.

July 24. **832**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy. Acknowledges the receipt of fifteen bottles of mango pickles. Offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 139, p. 55. Trans. I., 1771, no 51, p. 30.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 103.

July 24. **833**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Nawab Nūru'd-Dīn Khān Bahādur Manṣūr Jang has asked for bucklers made of wolf-hide. The addressee is therefore desired to send him two good bucklers of this description and other available presents. This will greatly please the writer.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 140, pp. 55-6.

July 24. **834**. To Sōbhā Rām Ghōsh. Inquires if the addressee was present at the time when Birj Kishōr Rāy communicated to the mother of Raja Tēj Chand the orders of Raja Tilōk Chand, deceased, for the return to the merchant Damōdar Dās of a waistband studded with jewels and an

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ornament worn on the arms. Or was it the addressee who communicated the orders to the Rānī? Desires him to send a speedy reply to these lines.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 141, p. 56. Trans. I., 1771, no 52, p. 30. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 107.

July 26. **835.** From the King. Intimates that his officers have borrowed 10 *lākhs* of rupees from the Vazīr in order to meet the expenses of the Royal expedition, and have deposited them in the Royal treasury. Has issued a receipt for that sum to the Governor on the Bengal tribute of 12 *Julūs*. Desires him to pay the said amount to the Vazīr and take the receipt from him as soon as he receives this *shuqqah*. This should be treated as urgent, and obeyed according to the Royal mandate.

Trans. R., 1771, no 139, pp. 106-7.

July 26. **836**. From the King. Has safely reached the boundaries of the province of Kora. General Barker, who has ever been faithful to him, accompanied the Royal Standard. He was not slow in showing his loyalty, and gave every satisfaction. He received his dismissal from the Presence because of his excellent services. Intimates that the General has left two battalions to attend on the King. Has also given him something to communicate to the addressee who is a pillar of the sacred throne. Desires the addressee to give his thought to it and remain always ready for its execution.

Trans. R., 1771, no 140, p. 107.

July 26. **837.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has understood from Nawab Munīr-u'd-Daulah's letter to the Governor that the future *qists* of the Bengal tribute will be remitted through the writer, and that the Governor has accordingly circulated the orders to the officers at the city. Requests the Governor therefore to forward the receipts speedily so that the necessary orders may be issued for the payment of the amount. Forwards to the Governor, as directed, the Nawab's receipt for 10 *lākhs* of rupees. As the Nawab has written urgently for its payment, it is hoped that the Governor will deliver it to the writer's *vakīl*, who will forward it to his Agent at the city. Requests the Governor to write to the officers at Murshidabad for the payment of the said amount.

Trans. R., 1771, no 141, pp. 107-8.

July 26. **838**. General Barker to the King. Is delighted beyond measure to receive the Royal *shuqqah* saying that His Majesty is concerned at not having received any *'arzī* from his humble servant, the writer, for a long time; that he is encamped in the neighbourhood of Farrukhabad; that Aḥmad Khān is dead, and that the writer should advise His Majesty as to the line of policy that should be pursued in consequence. As His Majesty is the master of the whole of Hindustan, fidelity and obedience are his dues, while those who overstep the bounds of loyalty

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should receive condign punishment. The needs of the hour are well known to His Majesty and to proffer any advice on this head will be to teach Luqmān wisdom. During an interview with Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah the writer found that His Majesty had ordered the Nawab to proceed to Kora, and that the Nawab was going there in five or six days; while Captain Brooke was to escort him with a few companies. It is said that the Vazīr has collected men to garrison the fort of Allahabad. The writer is therefore anxious to know what answer h. should give to the Vazīr if he writes anything about the fort. Hopes that His Majesty will issue explicit orders on this subject.

PS.—After this *'arzī* had been prepared the writer received another *shuqqah* in reply to his previous *'arzī* containing the Royal commands. His Majesty has allowed the writer to hold and to protect Allahabad and Kora, both Royal residences. It is therefore very necessary that the Allahabad fort should remain in the hands of His Majesty's servants [the English]. The two places can then be guarded properly. Requests His Majesty to give an explicit answer about the transfer of the fort.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 97, pp. 146-50.

July 28. **839**. From Raja Chait Singh. Had, before this, written to the Governor, through Shaikh 'Alī Naqī, in reply to his letter. Believes that the Governor has received it. No pen can describe his gratitude to the Governor for his bounty and favour. May the shadow of the Governor be always upon his vassals! Requests him to write letters frequently giving the news of his welfare and prosperity.

Trans. R., 1771, no 142, p. 108. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 161.

July 29. **840**. General Barker to the King. Has received His Majesty's *shuqqah* and understood the Royal commands. The writer will continue to carry them out as before. Requests His Majesty to say clearly if he desires the writer to transfer the Allahabad fort to the Vazīr. It is said that the Vazīr has organised four battalions and despatched them to garrison the fort. Protests that if the fort is given to the Vazīr, there is no other place in the whole of Allahabad suitable for storing war materials and for accommodating the troops. As His Majesty desires the English to guard the two places [Allahabad and Kora], it is necessary for their troops to stop where they are. Mr Cartier and the other gentlemen at Calcutta hold the same opinion. They advise the writer not to transfer the fort to the Vazīr even if he receives His Majesty's orders, for if it is transferred the negotiations and controversies which must ensue between the English and the Vazīr are likely to give rise to a disagreement. According to the treaty the English will hold themselves responsible for the defence of Allahabad as long as the fort remains in their hands. Hopes that His Majesty will soon give a clear answer which will be acted upon.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 98, pp. 152-4.

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July 30. **841**. From Ghulām Ḥusain Khān. Hopes that Mr Cartier will consider his case and again confer upon him his *jāgīr* in the *Ṣūbah* of Behar.

Trans. R., 1771, no 143, p. 109.

July 31. **842**. General Barker to the King. Has received His Majesty's *shuqqah* on the subject treated in the previous one and understood the Royal commands. His Majesty gives no clear orders concerning the Allahabad fort, while Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah is demanding its delivery. The writer was sorely embarrassed and knew not what to do. After mature deliberation he has devised a plan which will be advantageous to the *Sarkār* and pleasing to the Vazīr. It is as follows. His Majesty should write a *shuqqah* to the Vazīr saying that he has given him the fort, but asking him at present not to demand its evacuation by the English, for their help in defending Allahabad and Kora is very necessary in these days, and there is no other place suitable for their sojourn. The Vazīr can send a man on his own behalf to take charge of the fort and to stay there with his domestic servants and a few necessary attendants; the Englishmen and their troops will remain in the fort as long as is necessary. In this way His Majesty can keep his promise, enabling the troops to guard the two places as usual. If this plan meets with the approval of His Majesty a *shuqqah* may be sent to the Vazīr, and a prompt reply to the writer, whose entire business is at a standstill on this account.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 99, pp. 154-6.

July 31. **843**. General Barker to 'Ināyatu'l-lah Khān. Has received his letter and understood its contents. In reply to his inquiry it is hard to say definitely what attitude will, in the present state of things, be best for the addressee to observe. Aḥmad Khān is dead and His Majesty is encamped in the neighbourhood of Farrukhabad. It is no use giving any advice now when things are changing every moment.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 100, pp. 156-8.

July 31. **844**. General Barker to the King. The uniforms of the two battalions of the Royal *Sarkār*, according to the list enclosed herein, have been delivered to Munīru'd-Daulah, who will forward them to the Presence.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 101, p. 158.

July 31. **845**. General Barker to Ẓābiṭah Khān. Is very glad to receive his letter in which he says that Ratan Singh will inform the writer of all events. The writer, having taken leave of His Majesty, returned to Allahabad and sent back Ratan Singh before the letter was received. He could not therefore learn what the addressee had written to him. Ratan Singh before his arrival must have informed him of all that is going on in this quarter [Allahabad] and of his departure.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 102, pp. 158-60.

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Aug. 1. **846.** From Mirzā Najaf Khān. Has written several letters to the Governor but received no reply. The friendship which subsists between him and the Governor is known to all. The writer is always ready at the service of the Governor and is ever anxious to hear of his welfare and prosperity. Hopes that the Governor will always correspond with him until the occasion of a personal meeting presents itself. Believes that he is informed of the writer's situation as well as that of his country. It is solely through the beneficence of the Governor that he [the writer] has been honoured with an office in the Royal Presence. Intimates that in order to meet his expenses he has taken in advance from Captain Brooke the sum of Rs 33,333-7—his allowance for two months, from 14 *Rabī'I* to 13 *Jumādā I*, 12 *Julūs*—and acknowledged its receipt under his seal. Requests the Governor to direct his officers to disburse the said amount on the presentation of the receipt. This will greatly please him. Hopes to receive letters from the Governor every now and then.

Trans. R., 1771, no 144, pp. 109-10. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 160.

Aug. 3. **847.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Sends a present of pickles.

Trans. R., 1771, no 145, p. 110.

Aug. 4. **848.** From Sōbhā Rām Ghōsh. Has received the Governor's *parvānah* and understood its contents. Intimates that he was present at the time when Birj Kishōr Rāy informed the late Raja Tilōk Chand of the pressing demands of the merchant Damōdar Dās for his money, and of Mr Graham's directions to discharge the merchant's debt. Having replied that he had no money at hand, the Raja ordered the waistband and the armlet which he had bought from the merchant to be returned to him. The latter was accordingly returned. Shortly after the Raja died and the waistband which was in the custody of the wardrober was also returned. But the merchant charged Rs 4,000 as interest on the value of the ornaments which were kept so long. Both Birj Kishōr Rāy and the writer informed the Rānī of it.

Trans. R., 1771, no 146, pp. 110-11. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 168.

Aug. 4. **849.** From Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah. After expressing allegiance to Mr Cartier, says in answer to his letter that the receipts for the Bengal tribute will be forwarded to him for inspection through Raja Shitāb Rāy.

PS.—Advises the Governor, as he always advised Lord Clive and Mr Verelst, to keep the two forts [Allahabad and Kora] in his possession. Has also pointed out to General Barker the necessity of stationing English troops in them. As Kora is on the boundary of the Company's territories and the said forts are considered as the gates of Bengal, it is necessary for the Governor to keep them in possession in order to guard the boundaries strongly.

Trans. R., 1771, no 147, pp. 111-12. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 158.

Aug. 5.[1] **850.** To the Rānī of Burdwan. The Gentlemen of the Council and the writer have received her *'arzīs*. Birj Kishōr Rāy was called down to

[1] Aug. 3 according to the volume of copies.

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Calcutta to answer the charges preferred against him. After a careful inquiry into the particulars of her complaint, the writer discovered that he was in no way guilty. Birj Kishōr Rāy proved himself innocent of all the charges to the writer's satisfaction. Has invested him with a *khal'at* for his meritorious services, which he rendered in the capacity of a *Dīvān*, and directed him to return to his station and to discharge his functions as usual. Has also ordered him to be respectful to the addressee, and is confident that he will be. Henceforth she must forget her old differences with the *Dīvān* and act in a manner that can promote the Company's interests and satisfy the writer. In one of her *'arzīs* she writes that Birj Kishōr Rāy is making attempts on her life and that of the Raja. The writer cannot believe this. He is convinced that some artful and self-interested persons have been at work. The writer has perfect confidence in Birj Kishōr Rāy and he would therefore advise the addressee to set her mind at ease and punish those villains who propagate such falsehoods. The *Dīvān* is responsible to the writer for his actions, and naturally he cannot do anything contrary to the interests of the addressee and her family, much less commit a murder. She must bear in mind, in utter disregard of the machinations of designing persons, that the prosperity of a house depends upon unity among its members. She can always receive favour and support from the writer if she follows his advice.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 142, pp. 56-7. Trans. I., 1771, no 53, pp. 30-2. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 105.

Aug. 7. **851**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has received a letter from Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah together with a Royal *shuqqah* addressed to the Governor. Forwards the latter to the Governor expressing his ignorance of its contents and expects an answer from him. Offers compliments.

Contents of the enclosed *shuqqah*—Is perfectly well and ever anxious to hear of the Governor's welfare. As the descendants of Tīmūr and the fort of Shahjahanabad have fallen into the hands of the Mahrattas, His Majesty does not like to be subjected to such humiliation and has determined to march to the capital. At Bhuttore General Barker delivered to the *Sarkār* four field-pieces and an escort of two battalions. Is fully satisfied with the excellent services and conduct of the General, who was exalted with Royal honours before he left the Presence. Having left Bhuttore His Majesty proceeded towards his destination. Says that the fidelity, attachment and loyalty of the English *sardārs* are always present in his mind and will remain engraved upon his heart till his latest breath. The friends of the English are his friends, their enemies his enemies As there subsists great friendship between the King of England and His Majesty, the latter expects allegiance and loyalty from the English *sardārs*, and leaves the settlement of the revenues of Allahabad and Kora in their hands. Desires the Governor to order General Barker immediately to station three battalions at Allahabad and one at Kora, and also to manage the revenue of those places properly. This will give much pleasure to His Majesty. It is not expedient to remove the English

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forces from Allahabad. Intimates that he has intrusted the management of the Bengal tribute to Raja Shitāb Rāy, who always does his best to please His Majesty by the proper execution of his duties. Asks the Governor to order the officers at Murshidabad to remit their future *qists* through the Raja, who will forward them to the Presence. Hopes to receive *'arzīs* from the Governor every now and then.

Trans. R., 1771, nos 148-9, pp. 112-14. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 163.

Aug. 7[1]. **852**. To the King. Has received his *shuqqah* conveying the Royal commands to deliver the Allahabad fort to the Vazīr. The writer does not mean to oppose the Royal commands when he mentions the ill consequences that may accrue to His Majesty from an implicit obedience to them. The Allahabad fort, as a stronghold, is the key to the Royal possessions, and it will not be a prudent step to part with the fort (the place of his residence) before he is successful in his expedition. If His Majesty looks into the history of his ancestors, he will discover how often even their mature plans fell through. There is nothing certain in this world, and an arrow when once shot from the bow can never be recalled. His Majesty is wise enough to consider this and there is no use in adding.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 143, pp. 57-8. Trans. I., 1771, no 54, pp. 32-3. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 100.

Aug. 7. **853**. General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. It was suggested to the addressee that the Vazīr should depute a man to the Allahabad fort, and that the defence of Allahabad and Kora should be left as usual with the English as long as it was necessary. The Vazir also approved of the suggestion. If it is followed it will place the affairs of His Majesty on a satisfactory basis and ensure the proper defence of Allahabad and Kora. The addressee knows well how the writer exerted himself to seek His Majesty's pleasure and interests. He will go to Fyzabad in four or five days to make the necessary arrangements with the Vazīr about the fort.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 103, pp. 160-2.

Aug. 8. **854**. From Munnī Bēgam. Offers compliments.

Trans. R., 1771, no 150, p. 114.

Aug. 8[2]. **855**. To Sayyid Khādim 'Alī Khān. Has received his letters. In compliance with his request, the writer has written two letters, one to the Vazīr and the other to Captain Harper, and given them to the addressee's *vakīl* for delivery. Has ordered two *harkārahs* to escort the *vakīl*. In view of the conduct of the addressee's late father, the writer does not feel justified in considering his petition for the grant of a maintenance allowance. Will of course approach the Vazīr with a request for the return of the property of the addressee's deceased father.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 146, p. 59. Trans. I., 1771, no 55, p. 33. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 98.

[1] Aug. 8 according to the volume of copies.
[2] Aug. 13 according to the volume of copies.

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Aug. 8[1]. **856.** To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. The servants of Khādim Husain Khān, deceased, late *Nāzim* of Purnea, having seized the effects of their master settled at Lucknow. About 2 years ago, at the request of Khādim 'Alī Khān, the late *Nāzim's* son, Mr Harry Verelst had asked the addressee to restore to him the servants, who were squandering their master's money and ruining his son. The addressee accordingly ordered them to quit his country but to no purpose. They continued there and contrived to elude the punishment for this disobedience. Khādim 'Alī Khān resides at Murshidabad under the protection of the English. He is related to the late Nawab Ja'afar 'Alī Khān, whose descendants are always countenanced and favoured by the Company. Requests the addressee therefore to issue orders afresh and compel the servants to repair to Murshidabad at once with the remaining effects in their possession. Sends two *harkārahs* with Khādim 'Alī Khān's *vakīl* to bring them. Hopes he will grant them a *dastak* so that they may return safely with cash, property, etc., to Bengal. Has written full particulars to Captain Harper who will speak to the addressee on the subject. By complying with this request he will prove his true friendship for the writer, and relieve a man from great distress. The writer is ever anxious to hear of his welfare and to receive letters.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 145, pp. 58-9. Trans. I., 1771, no 56, pp. 34-5. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 106.

Aug. 9. **857.** General Barker to Zābitah Khān. Has received his letter and is very glad to know of his welfare. Ratan Singh presented to the writer the bows and the quiver of arrows, which the addressee had sent through him. He left this place before receiving the addressee's letter.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 104, p. 162.

Aug. 10. **858.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy. 'To-day', 23 July, information has been received that on 11 July His Majesty arrived at Kalinadi, seven or eight *kōs* from Farrukhabad. Husāmu'd-Daulah, whom His Majesty had despatched to Farrukhabad with a small army to visit Nawab Ahmad Khān, learnt on his arrival at Khudaganj that the Nawab died on 11 July. Consequently he wrote to His Majesty requesting him to send reinforcements. From this the writer thinks that His Majesty intends to seize the effects of the deceased.

Trans. R., 1771, no 151, pp. 114-15. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 163.

Aug. 10. **859.** General Barker to Rām Chandar Ganēsh. Has received his letter regarding Dhōndū Pandit's pilgrimage to Kāshī [Benares], Pryāg [Allahabad] and Gaya. In compliance with the addressee's request, a *dastak* has been issued ordering the people of those places not to molest him.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 105, pp. 162-4.

[1] Aug. 12 according to the volume of copies.

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Aug. 12. **860.** From Birj Kishōr Rāy. Informs Mr Cartier of his arrival at Burdwan. Will remit the *qists* to Calcutta after the *Puniā* ceremony is over.

Trans. R., 1771, no 152, p. 115.

Aug. 13[1]. **861.** To the Rānī of Burdwan. It has been signified to the writer that 'tomorrow' (Monday, 29 *Rabī' II*) is an auspicious day for holding the *Puniā* ceremony The addressee should therefore persuade Raja Tēj Chand to attend it according to the usual practice. The Raja's ill health cannot prevent him from attending the ceremony.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 144, p. 58. Trans. I., 1771, no 57, p. 35. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 105.

Aug. 14. **862.** From Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Intimates that some gentlemen from Bengal, declaring themselves to be the agents of the English, are travelling about the district of Gorakhpur to obtain *sākū* timber. They oppress the ryots and obstruct the collection of the revenue. Regard for his friendship with the English prevented the writer from informing the addressee earlier. But as they now come in large numbers and oppress the ryots, he cannot believe that they are sent by the English: they must come of their own accord. It is most improper of them to transact their own business in the name of the English. Requests the Governor to inform him of the real fact, and desires him to act as he thinks best in the matter.

Trans. R., 1771, no 153, pp. 115-16. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 167.

Aug. 15. **863.** General Barker to the King. Some time ago, a plan for the transfer of the Allahabad fort to the Vazīr was devised after mature deliberation and submitted to His Majesty. If it was followed, His Majesty could keep his promise with the Vazīr and satisfy him. It would also further the interests of His Majesty and leave the English troops where they were. As the writer has received no reply, he suspects his '*arẓī* has not reached His Majesty. Encloses therefore a copy of the '*arẓī* and hopes to receive soon the Royal commands on this subject. The writer is about to leave for Fyzabad to see the Vazīr.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 106, p. 166.

Aug. 16. **864.** From the Rānī of Burdwan. Recapitulates the contents of the Governor's letter confirming Birj Kishōr Rāy in his appointment and investing him with a *khal'at* on the occasion. As the English supremacy in Bengal is recognised by rich and poor alike, she would not have the audacity to utter a word against the order of the Governor. Birj Kishōr Rāy's fortunate immunity from punishment, even for crimes of a treasonable nature, indicates that the Governor has lost confidence in her and that her charges against him are regarded as false. She is therefore convinced that all her future representations will be of no avail. If she could have foreseen this misfortune, she would patiently have borne the oppressions and high-handed insolence of Birj Kishōr Rāy and would never have uttered a complaint. *Arẓī*

[1] Aug. 12 according to the volume of copies.

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after *'arzī* did she send to the Governor, but in vain. Yet Birj Kishōr Rāy's disobedience to her was proved before the Council by the sworn affidavit of trustworthy persons. But the end to her days of gloom is not yet. Clearly then she is no longer favoured by fortune. She has been all along a friend and well-wisher of the Company and has always been prompt in collecting the revenues, (although *Dīvāns* were often changed), and for this she has earned a good reputation. Observes with pain that the Governor has invested Birj Kishōr Rāy, who is her enemy, with a *khal'at* in recognition of his services. Begs the Governor's pardon for troubling him with her repeated and futile representations; but there is none but he, to whom she can look for protection. Her present anxieties can only be remedied if she is removed far from her enemies at Burdwan. Requests the Governor therefore to direct Mr Stuart to allow her and her son, Raja Tēj Chand, to proceed to Calcutta, so that she may live there under the protection of the Company and the Governor and pray for their prosperity.

Trans. R., 1771, no 154, pp. 116-18. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 166.

Aug. 16. **865.** General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Is delighted to receive his letter at Hajiganj. Has understood all that the enclosed copies of letters from Sālār Jang and Madāru'd-Daulah contain about the Vazīr's misgivings concerning the delivery of the fort to him. The writer hopes to remove them easily when he sees the Vazīr at Fyzabad. Has not yet received a reply to his *'arzī*, which he addressed to His Majesty, regarding the Allahabad fort. The sooner it is received the better; for it will reconcile the Vazīr and frustrate the designs of intriguing persons. As soon as the reply is received, he will set out to see the Vazīr about the fort and remove his misgivings. Is confident of success in this attempt. Hopes that everything will then turn out well.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 107, pp. 166-8.

Aug. 17. **866.** To the Rānī of Burdwan. After mature deliberation the Gentlemen of the Council have devised means to further the interests of the Raja and to guard him against his selfish servants. The Raja is now young and has no experience in *zamīndārī* affairs. To train him in their management, it is necessary that proper attention should be given to his education. Rāmkanta is therefore appointed to be the Raja's tutor and preceptor, while Birj Kishōr Rāy and the said Rāmkanta are to act as his guardians and trustees for his estate. They are to have the sole care of him and to look to the entire management of his household affairs. The addressee's past conduct has not been satisfactory in any way, but the Gentlemen of the Council have graciously settled on her the sum of Rs 4,000 a month, payable out of the allowance of the Raja, so that she may remain entirely independent of those servants. She will receive it regularly and can spend it in any way she likes; this is to cover all her expenses. Henceforth she will have nothing to do with the management of her household affairs. Advises her to be on good terms with her servants, who are bound to pay her due respect, for unity alone can secure the prosperity of a

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house. Desires her to be polite in her words to the Gentlemen of the Council, who are her true friends, and not to cast aspersions on their conduct. She must not heed the insinuations of her self-interested dependants. As long as she is loyal she will receive every support from the English.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 147, pp. 59, 60. Trans. I., 1771, no 58, pp. 35-7. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 105.

Aug. 18[1]. **867.** To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received his letter stating that some Englishmen, who travel about Gorakhpur in order to buy *sākū* timber, oppress the ryots and obstruct the collection of the revenue. The writer was by no means aware of this. As soon as he received the addressee's letter, he wrote to Mr Jekyll, the Chief of Patna, to inquire into the matter and report the result. To be sure the writer had, a few days ago, sent some persons to Bettiah, not to the addressee's country, to buy timber for some buildings in Calcutta; but being unable to find timber of the quality required, they made a contract with some of the inhabitants of Gorakhpur for its supply. Whatever it is, the writer will see that there are no grounds for complaint in the future.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 151, pp. 61-2. Trans. I., 1771, no 59, pp. 37-8. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 106.

Aug. 19. **868.** General Barker to Jhandā Singh. Is greatly pleased to receive his letter stating that there is a strong rumour of Shah Abdālī's approach, but that he cannot cross the Attock for fear of the *Khālisah* army; that he is also afraid of the Mahrattas; that Chait Singh and Ajīt Singh of Ramgarh are dead; that Raja Ranjīt Dēo is very intimate with the addressee and that Ḥurmat Singh has taken Sarbaland Khān prisoner. It is clear that as long as the *Khālisah* army is on the watch, no one can march upon Hindustan unopposed. The Mahrattas have occupied the capital and His Majesty is marching to join them against the writer's advice. Those gifted with foresight will easily understand that His Majesty's alliance with the Mahrattas can do the other chiefs of Hindustan no good. The English *sardārs* do not seek more territories than what they already possess. The writer accompanied the Royal Standard to the frontiers of Kora and then returned with the permission of His Majesty. The addressee is a sensible man and should do what he thinks best for the situation.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 108, p. 168.

Aug. 19. **869.** General Barker to . . .[2] To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 109, p. 170.

Aug. 19. **870.** General Barker to Ẓābiṭah Khān. Has received his letter saying that Ratan Singh will speak about certain things to the writer. States that Ratan Singh left him a month ago, and intimation of the

[1] Aug. 26 according to the volume of copies.
[2] The name has disappeared, the paper being badly worm-eaten.

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fact has already been sent. It is astonishing that he has not yet reported himself to the addressee.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 110, p. 172.

Aug. 20. **871.** From Raja Tēj Chand. Sends a *nazr* of 5 gold mohurs and 5 rupees on the occasion of the *Puniā* ceremony.

Trans. R., 1771, no 155, p. 118.

Aug. 20. **872.** From Birj Kishōr Rāy. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 156, p. 118.

Aug. 20. **873**. From Raja Tēj Chand. Sends a *qist* of Rs 6,50,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R., 1771, no 157, pp. 118-19. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 165.

Aug 20. **874.** From Birj Kishōr Rāy. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 158, p. 119.

Aug. 20[1]. **875**. To the King. Is much pleased to receive his *shuqqah* stating that General Barker has left the enlightened Presence, and that His Majesty is marching towards Farrukhabad ; and directing that three battalions of the English troops are to be stationed at the fort of Allahabad and one at Kora for their defence. The writer is ever ready to carry out the Royal commands with the same spirit and zeal as he showed in the past But if, in accordance with His Majesty's directions, the fort of Allahabad is given to the Vazīr, how can the writer then station three battalions there for its defence? As the interests of His Majesty and those of his loyal servants, the English, are identical, the writer will never be found deficient in his loyalty to the throne. Proper steps will be taken for the defence of His Majesty's country and for the maintenance of the Royal dignity. Hopes to receive *shuqqahs* every now and then.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 150, p. 161. Trans. I., 1771, no 60, pp. 38-9. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 100.

Aug. 22. **876.** To Munnī Bēgam. Is much delighted to receive her letter inquiring after his welfare. Says in reply that he is keeping good health. Hopes to hear constantly from her.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 148, p. 60.

Aug. 22. **877**. To Sayyid Muḥammad Ālī Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Mr Russell passed through his country on his way to Monghyr and the addressee showed him no mark of attention. Desires him to explain the cause of this omission.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 149, pp. 60-1.

Aug. 24[2]. **878**. To Raja Tēj Chand. Acknowledges the receipt of a *qist* of the Burdwan revenues amounting to Rs 6,50,000.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 153, p. 62. Trans. I., 1771, no 63, p. 39. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 104.

[1] Aug. 26 according to the volume of copies.
[2] Aug. 27 according to the volume of copies.

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Aug. 24[1]. **879**. To Birj Kishōr Rāy. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 153, p. 62. Trans. I., 1771, no 64, p. 39. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 97.

Aug. 24[1]. **880**. To Raja Tēj Chand. Acknowledges the receipt of a *nazr* of 5 gold mohurs and 5 rupees on the occasion of the *Puniā* ceremony.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 154, p. 63. Trans. I., 1771, no 61, p. 39. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 104.

Aug. 24[1]. **881**. To Birj Kishōr Rāy. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 155, p. 63. Trans. I., 1771, no 62, p. 39. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 97.

Aug. 26. **882**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has received the Royal *shuqqah* enclosed in his letter. A reply to the *shuqqah* is herewith sent to the addressee. Desires him to forward it to His Majesty as soon as he receives it.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 152, p. 62.

Aug. 26. **883**. General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. His Majesty was pleased to grant the writer 1 *lākh* of rupees as a reward for his services. He forgot to ask His Majesty for a *shuqqah* to the addressee. This was very necessary, because the addressee was to pay the reward according to His Majesty's orders. However the *shuqqah* should run thus: 'General Barker was in the Presence for a long time. He discharged his duties with loyalty and fidelity, and always exerted himself in the affairs of the *Sarkār*. He is now unable to accompany the King to the capital . . . .[2] General Barker is asked to accept the reward for his services'. Requests the addressee now to obtain a *shuqqah* containing the above facts and to enclose it in original with his letter. It will be put before the Gentlemen of the Council for their satisfaction. An *'arzi* from Mr Cartier is enclosed.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 111, pp. 172-4.

Aug. 27. **884**. To Dayā Rām. Be it known to the addressee that his presence in Calcutta is very necessary. Desires him to come as soon as he receives this *parvānah*. This is to be treated as very urgent.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 157, p. 63.

Aug. 28. **885**. From Raja Rājballabh. Sends a duplicate of his previous letter stating his distressed situation and requesting the Governor to confer upon him the *jāgīr* and other allowances enjoyed by his deceased father.

Trans. R., 1771, no 159, p. 119.

Aug. 28[1]. **886**. To Bābū Jai Nāik. Has received his letter complaining of the conduct of Mr Weeks and requesting the writer to send Mr Allen

[1] Aug. 27 according to the volume of copies.

[2] This portion of the volume is entirely worm-eaten.

back as Resident of Cuttack in his place. Is very sorry to learn this. Has severely censured Mr Weeks, who was left at Cuttack only to officiate for Mr Allen during his absence. As the writer values the friendship of Raja Jānūji Bhonsla and the satisfaction of his dependants above everything, he has already despatched Mr Allen to his station. Hopes that everything will turn out well in future.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 156, p. 63. Trans. I., 1771, no 65, pp. 39, 40. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 97.

Aug. 29. **887**. General Barker to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. The writer omitted one thing during the conversation which he had with the addressee the 'day before yesterday'. It is that the addressee is to depute a man to take charge of the Allahabad fort and to hand over the Chunargarh fort, exclusive of its belongings, to the writer on any condition he chooses. Requests him to give a clear answer which will be communicated to the Gentlemen at Calcutta.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 112, p. 174.

Sept. 2. **888**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has before this forwarded to the Governor for his information all the intelligence he had gathered about the Mahratta *sardārs*. Believes that the Governor is aware of the fact that His Majesty had despatched Yāqūt Khān, the Royal eunuch, to the Mahrattas with the balance of the first *qist* of 10 *lākhs* of rupees to procure the evacuation of the fort of Shahjahanabad. Has understood 'today', 18 August, from a letter from a trustworthy person, that the Mahrattas promised the eunuch to hand over the fort in a day or two, and took the money from him. Now however they decline to evacuate it until they receive the second *qīst* of 15 *lākhs* of rupees. In despair the eunuch reported the matter to His Majesty. It seems that the Mahrattas mean to stay in the Capital till His Majesty arrives. They will then demand the balance of 40 *lākhs* of rupees and leave the fort.

Mādhōjī Sindhia is delighted to learn from the *shuqqah*, which Yāqūt Khān delivered to him, that His Majesty is marching to the capital, for he expects to receive from him the balance of 40 *lākhs* of rupees before he [the Sindhia] leaves for the Deccan. Intimates that the Mahratta *sardārs* are still quarrelling. His Majesty is now within five or six *kōs* of Farrukhabad. He has settled the affairs of Aḥmad Khān's son for 6 *lākhs* of rupees : half to be paid in specie and half in effects. The Khān's son offered 8,000 gold mohurs and promised to pay the balance after His Majesty's departure from Farrukhabad. His Majesty declined to receive them and said that if the stipulated amount was not given at once, he would punish the Khān's son. His Majesty has learnt all about the Mahrattas from the correspondence of Yāqūt Khān. It is not certain whether he will march forward or stop where he is at present. Will inform the Governor of all the news that he receives hereafter.

Trans. R., 1771, no 160, pp. 119-21. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 163-4.

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Sept. 2. **889.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Mr Williamson bought timber for the Company during January to July 1768. Desires the addressee to inquire from Mēgh Rāy and Shaikh Barkatu'l-lah, merchants of Murshidabad, what the price of timber was at that time. If they cannot be found, he can get it from other trustworthy merchants. This will please the writer

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 158, pp. 63-4. Trans. I., 1771, no 68, p. 41. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 101.

Sept. 2. **890.** General Barker to Nawab Muzaffar Jang, son of Aḥmad Khān. Has received the addressee's letter informing the writer of the demise of Nawab Aḥmad Khān and reminding him of the friendship that existed between the writer and the late Nawab. Says that the news of this sorrowful event has caused him much grief. But since God has ordained that 'every soul has got to taste death' and has said that 'He is the companion of those who patiently bear misfortune', one must not murmur at His will. May the Almighty preserve his friend, the addressee, who is an embodiment of all virtues, at the head of the late Nawab's family, safe from all heaven-sent calamities! The friendship which has long existed between him and the addressee's family should now be considered to have grown stronger and deeper, while the 'opening of the door of correspondence' between the writer and the addressee will only serve to enhance it. The addressee has said in his letter that he was overjoyed to hear of the writer's proposed arrival at the Royal camp. But this news is unfounded, for the writer has just come to Allahabad, after taking leave of His Majesty, in order to settle some of His Majesty's affairs. Will remain here for some time yet. Hopes that the addressee will make him happy by writing to him now and then about his welfare till an occasion for a personal interview presents itself.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 113, pp. 174-6.

Sept. 4. **891.** From the Rānī of Burdwan. Has received the Governor's *parvānah* through Kālī Parshād appointing Birj Kishōr Rāy manager of Burdwan, and Rāmkanta, tutor to Raja Tēj Chand, and stating that both of them are to be joint trustees for the Raja's effects. Has also understood from the *parvānah* that she will receive Rs 4,000 per month for her expenses and is to have no hand in the affairs of the household. Says that she would not in ordinary circumstances have the audacity to utter a word against the Governor's order and that the affairs of the *zamīndārī* will be managed according to his directions: but Birj Kishōr Rāy, having held the *Puniā* and attended to the settlement of the *zamīndārī*, has distributed *khal'ats* to the servants just as he pleased, and has also leased out several districts at reduced rates.—But according to the Governor's order she could not interfere with him. And now another plot of his: the doctor Gōpīnāth, an old and reliable servant of her family, has been dragged from her house by a number of *harkārahs* and confined. He further says that he will dismiss her old *darbān*, who has been serving her for years, and will appoint another in

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his place. This has dissatisfied all her old servants who now want to leave.

As she holds the Governor responsible for her maintenance she gladly accepts the allowance settled on her by him. Requests the Governor to write to Birj Kishōr Rāy commanding him not to harass her and her servants and to release the doctor from confinement. Desires him also to permit her to repair to Calcutta with Raja Tēj Chand, so that they may remain there happy and contented under the Company's protection.

Trans. R., 1771, no 161, pp. 121-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 166.

Sept. 4[1]. **892**. From Jasārat Khān. Offers compliments to the Governor and hopes to hear from him every now and then.

PS.—Intends to send Fazl 'Alī with some confidential message which he cannot write out in a letter. Requests the Governor to say if he approves of this proposal, so that he may send the man soon.

Trans. R., 1771, no 162, p. 124. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 155.

Sept. 5[2]. **893**. To Jasārat Khān. Has received his letter complaining of the writer's silence and requesting permission to send Aghā Fazl 'Alī to him with some confidential message. The writer is always informed of the Khān's welfare although there is no correspondence between them. The Khān can send the Aghā if he likes.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 159, p. 64.

Sept. 5[3]. **894**. To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has understood from Captain Harper's letter that the addressee intends to send grain to the Company, as he did last year, at the request of the writer. Thanks him for his good wishes and says that grain is not needed this year. If in future the crop fails from drought, he will write to the addressee. The grain which was received last year did much to relieve the suffering which famine had brought upon the inhabitants of Behar. It was sold to the inhabitants of Behar at a very moderate price and the proceeds were deposited with the Company. Requests him to send through Captain Harper an account of the price of grain including freight etc., to Patna. The Chief of Patna will then be directed to pay the amount to any man whom the addressee may appoint for the purpose. Has full confidence in the addressee's friendship for the Company and prays that it may continue without break.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 162, pp. 64-5. Trans. I., 1771, no 66, pp. 40-1. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 106.

Sept. 6. **895**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has already communicated to the Governor all the news he has hitherto received regarding the present intercourse of His Majesty with the Mahrattas. Has understood 'today', 24 August, from a paper of news, that on 12 August the Mahrattas delivered the fort [of Shahjahanabad] to His Majesty's men.

[1] Sept. 6 according to the volume of abstracts.
[2] Sept. 2 according to the volume of copies.
[3] Sept. 10 according to the volume of copies.

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Yāqūt Khān and Saifu'd-Dīn Muhammad Khān took charge of it. His Majesty is now within 4 *kōs* of Farrukhabad, and is very glad to learn that the Mahrattas have evacuated the fort. Assumes that His Majesty will now go to Shahjahanabad by forced marches. His Majesty's march to the capital has been delayed because he was busy with the affairs of the late Ahmad Khān. Will send all the news that he receives hereafter.

Trans. R., 1771, no 163, p. 124. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 164.

Sept. 7. **896**. To Muhammad Rizā Khān. Sends a cheetah for the addressee, as he is very fond of such animals. Hopes to hear from him every now and then.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 160, p. 64.

Sept. 7. **897**. To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 161, p. 64.

Sept. 7. **898**. General Barker to the King. Has the honour to receive His Majesty's gracious *shuqqahs* in reply to his *'arzī* concerning the fort of Allahabad. These have acquainted him with the Royal commands including the one for the transfer of the fort to the Vazīr. Says that he arrived at Fyzabad a few days ago and has had several conferences with the Vazīr about the fort. The discussions during these conferences sometimes took such a turn that the writer was on the point of going away without finishing the business. This was because the contents of the *shuqqahs* written by His Majesty to the Vazīr and to the writer on the subject were not identical. For instance, in the *shuqqah* addressed to the writer through the Vazīr His Majesty repeated his orders for the transfer of the fort saying: 'we have granted the fort to the Vazīr, you should hoist his flag on its gates; but the English troops should continue to garrison the fort as before for its protection on behalf of the Vazīr.' On the other hand in his other *shuqqahs* His Majesty commanded: 'till the time when the matter which was present in the Royal mind took shape or until the Vazīr started for the Royal Presence to pay his respects and assumed charge of the Royal affairs, the fort should not be vacated and delivered to His Excellency.' The co-operation of the Vazīr in the Royal affairs and his loyalty and readiness in the service of His Majesty will undoubtedly promote and advance His Majesty's interests. The Vazīr too declares that he is ready for such duties. But he begs to point out the dilemma in which he is: unless he is able to provide a proper place of safety for his 'honour'[1], he cannot move from the place where he now is. Whereas if the fort is vacated for the residence of his family, he will at once be able to devote himself whole-heartedly to the affairs of the Royal *Sarkār*. As the reasons which His Excellency has put forth are very sound and unanswerable, the writer has no objection to transfer the fort to him. This *'arzdāsht* is submitted according as things have taken place.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 114, pp. 176-8.

[1] This is a Persian polite term for family.

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Sept. 8. **899**. From Mirzā Najaf Khān. Has written several letters to the Governor but received no reply. Being a dependant of the English, the writer considers it an honour to himself if he can do them any service. General Barker has received his dismissal from the Presence at Kora. The writer is still with the Royal Standard and has arrived at Farrukhabad. Refers the Governor for further particulars to General Barker. Hopes to hear from him frequently.

Trans. R., 1771, no 164, pp. 125-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 160.

Sept. 8. **900**. From Raja Dhīraj Narāyan, [*Dīvān* of Patna]. Informs Mr Cartier of his distress, and requests to be granted an allowance to maintain himself in consideration of the services rendered to the Company by himself and his brother, Raja Rām Narāyan, now dead. Begs the Governor to restore to him his *jāgīrs* at Tirhut and at Ghayaspur in Behar, and to direct Nawab Muḥammad Riẓā Khān to allow him to go to Patna, so that he may perform some religious rites for his departed brother. Should the Governor be pleased to grant the writer's petition, he will be able to spend the remainder of his life in prayer for the Company's prosperity.

Trans. R., 1771, no 165, p. 126. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 166.

Sept. 9. **901**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Intimates that on 2 September the *sikkahs* for 13 *Julūs* were struck in the Murshidabad Mint. Sends a *nazr* of 5 gold mohurs and 7 rupees on the occasion and begs the Governor to accept them.

Trans. R., 1771, no 166, p. 127. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 159.

Sept. 10. **902**. From the King. Is in excellent health and ever anxious to hear of the Governor's welfare. Has arrived 'to-day', 10 August, in the dependency of Farrukhabad. Has given the fort of Allahabad to the Vazīr, who is as dear to him as life itself. Desires the Governor to direct General Barker to evacuate the fort immediately and to deliver it to him. This will greatly please His Majesty.

Trans. R., 1771, no 167, p. 127. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 156.

Sept. 10. **903**. From Jasārat Khān, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Dacca. Says that Khwājah Mirzā of Chinsura owed Ḥājī Muḥammad Karīm, a merchant of Dacca, some money. On his refusing to pay it, the Ḥājī complained to Mirzā Kāẓim at Hooghly, who referred the matter to arbitration. It was found that Rs 18,000 was due to the complainant. The amount was paid, after which the parties exchanged documents expressing mutual satisfaction. Subsequently, Khwājah Mirzā went to Calcutta and appealed against the arbitration. But the decision already arrived at was upheld. Nothing daunted, he has now placed the matter in the hands of Mr Morris, his attorney, who is in Calcutta. Ḥājī Muḥammad Karīm has been informed by his legal advisers that this affair is shortly to be brought before the Court of Appeals where he will be required to attend. Says that both the Ḥājī and his son are lying sick, and that therefore he cannot immediately proceed to

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Calcutta. Requests the Governor kindly to have the case postponed for two months. The Ḥājī will be there in the month of *Rajab*, when he will wait upon His Excellency and explain the circumstances of his case.

PS.—Says that he can arrange immediately to send the Ḥājī to Calcutta in spite of his ill health and that of his son, if this is absolutely necessary.

Trans. R., 1771, no 168, pp. 127-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 155.

Sept. 10. **904**. General Barker to Gangā Rām and others. Gangā Rām and Bhavānī Singh *Kumēdān* and other *Ṣūbahdārs* and *Jamā'dārs* of the two Royal battalions should know that their *'arẓī* has been received and its contents understood in detail. The writer has accordingly sent an *'arẓī* to His Majesty about their case, and hopes, rather is confident, that His Majesty will be pleased to consider the *'arẓī* in compliance with his requests. It is incumbent on the addressees to co-operate with one another so that they may discharge their duties to His Majesty with energy and vigour. Otherwise, in the discharge of their duties, shortcomings are likely to occur on their part which may bring disgrace to their name and to that of their masters, the English. They should bear this matter in mind and be careful, and inform all the *Ṣūbahdārs* and *Jamā'dārs* of the contents of this letter.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 115, p. 178.

Sept. 10. **905**. General Barker to the King. Submits that the officer in charge of the *'adālat* attached to the two battalions of the Royal *Sarkār* does not administer justice in their cases properly and that the payment of their salaries is much delayed. This causes much hardship to the people and makes them discontented. The writer begs therefore to bring these facts to His Majesty's notice. Since arrangements to pay these two battalions have always been made with justice and most of these men are old servants of the English, who used to receive their salaries without any delay or deduction, they expect to be paid in *sanawāt*[1] rupees. May it therefore please His Majesty to issue orders to the effect that these men be kept satisfied by the just decision of their cause and the regular payment of their salaries month by month. Then will they be always ready and willing in His Majesty's service. But if justice is not done them, and their salaries are not paid in time, the writer is afraid that most of them will grow discontented and will give up their service and go away. Has submitted what it was his duty to do as a well-wisher of His Majesty.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 116, p. 180.

Sept. 11. **906**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has already informed the Governor that the Mahratta *sardārs* have handed over the fort of Shahjahanabad

[1] A term originally applied to rupees of old dates on which an allowance was made. These were most probably more sterling than the current rupees, although possessing the same face-value. Hence the prayer of the battalions to be paid in these coins.

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to the King's representatives. 'Today' (Wednesday, 3 September) the writer understands from a paper of news that the King is now at Farrukhabad. It is settled that the son of the late Aḥmad Khān is to give him a *pēshkash* of Rs 6,75,000[1]. One *lākh* in specie and 30 *marks* of silver plate have been delivered to him; 2 *lākhs* in jewels, cloths etc., were offered but His Majesty declined to accept them, and therefore a bond for Rs 2,75,000 has been given him, payable in three months. It is probable that after the business about the *peshkash* is settled His Majesty will set out for Shahjahanabad. Encloses a *shuqqah* addressed to the Governor.

Trans. R., 1771, no 169, p. 129. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 164.

Sept. 11. **907**. From the King. Complains of the delay in remitting *qists* of the Royal tribute. Finds it difficult to meet the expenses of his household. Desires the Governor to write to the officials at Murshidabad to send the *qists* up to the end of *Rabī' II*, as early as possible. Says that in the time of Lord Clive and Mr Verelst, cloths and other curiosities used to come from Bengal to the Presence, but that such articles have not been received since Mr Verelst left India. Requests the Governor to write to Murshidabad to this effect.

Trans. R., 1771, no 170, pp. 129-30. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 150.

Sept. 11. **908**. To Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah. Mr Archdeacon, who is trading at Mirzapur, intends to send his *gumāshtah* to Allahabad to buy cotton goods. Desires the addressee to direct his officials there to render the *gumāshtah* every assistance in his business.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 163, p. 65.

Sept. 12. **909**. General Barker to the King. Has already sent an *'arẓī* to His Majesty informing him of the settlement that was concluded about transferring the fort of Allahabad to the Vazīr. But later a controversy arose and the settlement was quashed, and now all negotiations are at an end. Is still at Allahabad and has received the Royal *shuqqahs* addressed to him both direct as well as through the Vazīr. The discussions that took place regarding the fort sometimes brought the Vazīr and the writer to the verge of an open rupture. But although a difference of opinion between them on this matter has hitherto upset every hope of a settlement, their friendship has remained unshaken. So now it has seemed wiser for the time being to leave the question of the fort alone.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 117, pp. 180-2.

Sept. 16. **910**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Sends a *naẓr* of 2 gold mohurs and 5 rupees on the occasion of the coining of new *sikkahs* in the 12th year of His Majesty's reign.

Trans. R., 1771, no 171, p. 130.

Sept. 17. **911**. From Raja Tēj Chand. Sends a *qisṭ* of Rs 1,25,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R., 1771, no 172, pp. 130-1.

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[1] 6 *lākhs* according to the volume of abstracts.

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Sept. 17. **912**. From Birj Kishōr Raj. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 17[illegible], p. 131.

Sept. 17. **913**. To Mirzā Najaf Khān. Had received his several letters but could not answer them for pressure of work. Is very glad to learn that the addressee has safely arrived at Farrukhabad and is attending upon His Majesty. May this bring him honour and reputation! The writer considers him a true well-wisher of the Company and will extend to him all the privileges he ... The addressee will receive his annual stipend of 2 *lākhs* as usual from the Company, but the payment of its *qists* may perhaps be delayed as the people of this province are still suffering from the evil effects of the famine of the past year. The writer will do all in his power that may tend to the addressee's advantage and satisfaction so long as he is sincere to the Company. Hopes to hear from him every now and then.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 167, p. 66. Trans. I., 1771, no 69, p. 42. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 102.

Sept. 17. **914**. General Barker to Munīru'd-Daulah. Is very glad to receive the addressee's letter and to learn its contents. Is also very happy to receive at the same time two Royal *shuqqahs* on the subject in question, one addressed to him direct and another through the addressee, enclosed in a separate cover. The writer is now on his march from Fyzabad to Benares. He will next proceed to Azimabad in order to make some arrangements for the troops and perform some other urgent business which he has got in hand. From Azimabad he will go to Monghyr and after finishing his business will return in the course of about two months to Allahabad, where he will stay to settle some pending affairs, as has been mutually decided between him and the Vazīr.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 118, p. 182.

Sept. 17[1]. **915**. General Barker to the Vazīr. Has reached Benares safely. 'Today' is the 15th of the month [*Jumāda II*]; will leave the place after two days, as he told the addressee when the writer saw him last. Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah came to Benares for an interview with the writer, and is now going back to Allahabad. The writer will also return there, having finished his business elsewhere. Hopes the addressee will keep him informed of his welfare by writing to him now and then till a personal interview takes place.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 119, p. 184.

Sept. 18[2]. **916**. To Tēj Chand, Raja of Burdwan. Acknowledges the receipt of a *qist* of the Burdwan revenues.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 164, p. 65. Trans. I., 1771, no 70, pp. 40-1. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 104.

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[1] Sept. 2 in the volume of copies, which is evidently a mistake.

[2] Sept. 19 according to the volume of copies.

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Sept. 18[1]. **917.** To Birj Kishōr Rāy, *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 164, p. 65. Trans. I., 1771, no 71, p. 41. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 97.

Sept. 19. **918.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has already informed the Governor that the King had settled with Nawab Muẕaffar Jang, son of the late Aḥmad K͟hān, the business about the *pēshkash.* 'Today', 7 September, the writer understands from a paper of news that on 28 August Nawab Muẕaffar Jang expressed a wish to see Ḥusāmu'd-Dīn K͟hān. Agreeably to the King's directions, Ḥusāmu'd-Dīn K͟hān and Mirzā Najaf K͟hān went to see the Nawab. As Mirzā Najaf K͟hān had a body of Mug͟hal horse attendant upon his person, the gates of the fort of Farrukhabad were not opened to receive the visitors before some messages had passed between them and the Nawab. However the interview was very cordial, and the Nawab informed them that he would go and make his obeisance to His Majesty the same day at 10 o'clock. This he did in company with Raushan K͟hān, Mihrbān K͟hān and Manṣūr K͟hān, and presented a *nazr* to His Majesty who bestowed on him a *k͟hal'at* with a *sarpēch* of jewels, a string of pearls, a sword, a horse and an elephant. Raushan K͟hān also received a *k͟hal'at.* After this, the Nawab returned to Farrukhabad with his followers, among whom were twenty-five chiefs of consequence, mounted on elephants. Fak͟hru'd-Daulah, his *Bak͟hshī*, and Amānu'l-lah K͟hān, his *K͟hān-i-Sāmān*, also presented *nazrs* to His Majesty and were honoured with *k͟hal'ats.*

Trans. R., 1771, no 174, pp. 131-2. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 164.

Sept. 19. **919.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has received the Governor's letter enclosing an *'arẕī* for His Majesty in reply to the Royal *shuqqah* which the writer had forwarded to the addressee. States that the *'arẕī* was despatched to the Presence the moment it was received.

Trans. R., 1771, no 175, p. 132.

Sept. 19[2]. **920.** To Muḥammad Riẕā K͟hān. Acknowledges the receipt of a *nazr* on the occasion of the coining of new *sikkahs.*

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 165, pp. 65-6. Trans. I., 1771, no 72, p. 43. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 101.

Sept. 19[2]. **921.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 166, p. 66. Trans. I., 1771, no 73, p. 43. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 103.

Sept. 19. **922.** General Barker to the King. Has the honour to receive the Royal *shuqqah* containing His Majesty's auspicious orders. The honour of kissing the Royal threshold is the most cherished desire of his heart. But as he has to make certain necessary arrangements for the troops and has got some other urgent work in hand, he must first go to Benares which lies on his way and then, after a short stay there, to Azimabad and again from Azimabad to Monghyr.

[1] Sept. 19 according to the volume of copies.

[2] Sept. 22 according to the volume of copies.

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He will therefore be not able to have the honour of paying his respects to His Majesty for the present. If God pleases he will however return to Allahabad after finishing his business in about a month and a half, when he will have the opportunity of obeying His Majesty's Command and kissing the Royal threshold.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 120, p. 184.

Sept. 19. **923.** General Barker to the Vazīr. Entered the district of Jaunpur on the 8th of the current month [*Jumāda II*], and if God pleases, will reach the city the day after tomorrow. As directed by the addressee Laṭāfat arrived at *Sarāi* Khwājah with Vazīr Qulī, having traversed a long distance. They did all that was becoming to the friendship which exists between the writer and the addressee. 'Our' union, which is well known, is independent of all formalities. May the Holy God keep the addressee happy in His protection! The writer is always anxious to hear of his welfare.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 121, p. 186.

Sept. 19. **924.** General Barker to Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah. Has received the addressee's letter. Says that previous to this he had received a letter from the addressee enclosing a Royal *shuqqah* to which he has already sent a reply. It must have reached him by this time and informed him of the writer's departure. The addressee has invited him to enjoy the mutual pleasure of a personal interview. He will return to Allahabad in a month and a half or two months when he will have the pleasure of seeing the addressee.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 122, pp. 186-88.

Sept. 20. **925.** From Muḥammad 'Alī Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Understands from the officers of the *Bakhsh-bandar* residing in Calcutta that the Captain of a Portuguese ship has not yet paid the duty on his merchandise. Requests the Governor kindly to direct the Captain to pay it.

Trans. R., 1771, no 176, p. 132.

Sept. 21. **926.** From Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Says that Mīr Muḥammad Ḥusain, a dependant of his, is reported to have some dispute with his brother about a *jāgīr* situated in that quarter (Behar). Requests the Governor kindly to ask the officers concerned to hear and decide the case of Mīr Muḥammad Ḥusain and forward to the writer a copy of their proceedings.

Trans. R., 1771, no 177, pp. 132-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 167.

Sept. 21. **927.** From Mirzā 'Abdu'r Raḥīm. As directed by the Nawab Vazīr and Captain Harper, he at once left Fyzabad to see the Governor before leaving for Mecca, and to execute some commissions in the meanwhile. On arriving at Murshidabad he fell ill, and is temporarily detained there, pending recovery. Hopes shortly to pay his respects to the Governor.

Trans. R., 1771, no 178, p. 133. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 160.

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Sept. 23. **928**. From the Rānī of Burdwan. Has already sent the Governor a number of *'arzīs* from which he must have come to know of her wretched condition. On 13 September, Birj Kishōr Rāy had Dr Gopīnāth, about whom she has already written to His Excellency, flogged by Mr Stuart. After this, on the 17th, ten peons and two *harkārahs* took the doctor to his house with a *parvānah* from Mr Stuart to the *Faujdar* directing that he and his dependants be put into prison. Says that since the time of the departed Raja, this doctor has been a faithful servant and trusted physician of the house. Birj Kishōr Rāy and several officers of the province have concocted a case against him, which is being dinned into Mr Stuart's ears, in the hope that it may reach the Gentlemen of the Council at Calcutta. Birj Kishōr Rāy came and told her one day that he was going to separate her from Raja Tēj Chand, and he tormented her with other similar threats. She heard all and said nothing, recognising that fate had turned against her. To the public outside and to Mr Stuart he gave out that she was perfectly satisfied with him. How can she hold her own, confronted as she is with a consummate liar? Adds that he has also threatened to punish her *gumāshtahs* whom she had ordered to collect the rent of Daspur and other districts. As she is now excluded from the administration of the state, she scrupulously refrains from interfering in it. Says she has two writers in her service: one has charge of her Persian correspondence, the other of Bengali. Birj Kishōr Rāy has intimidated both. She is continually being harassed. Prays that His Excellency may be pleased to depute some able Englishman who could make himself acquainted with all particulars and make an independent report to His Excellency.

Trans. R., 1771, no 179, pp. 133-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 166.

Sept. 23. **929**. From Nawab Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Reports that the Dutch and the Danes are obstructing the business of the *Faujdārī* and oppressing the people. Encloses two letters received from Sayyid Muḥammad 'Alī Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Says that it is necessary to put a stop to these practices, and that he will carry out whatever may be His Excellency's orders on this head.

(1) From Sayyid Muḥammad 'Alī Khān, to Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. The Director of the Danish Company has behaved very improperly in several instances. For a year and a half the *ta'lluqdār* of a village (the property of Bijāy Chand Rāy) and Krishnā Kānta, *zamīndār* of the village Narapur, who is also a *gumāshtah* of the Danish Company, have been quarrelling about the boundaries of their respective villages. After the *mutaṣaddīs* and other officials of the *Divānī* were examined, it was proved that the disputed land belonged to the village of Bijāy Chand. This fact is also recorded in the proceedings of the *Kachahrī*. The *Nizāmat* appointed some persons with a *dastak* to fix the boundaries. Landmarks were accordingly placed, but Krishnā Kānta sent a number of villagers who not only removed them but even threatened to attack the servants of the *sarkār*. The following is another instance of the irregularities committed by the Danish

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Company. One of their ships arrived last year from Europe. They paid only Rs 700 as duty on the manifest of the cargo. As a larger amount is ordinarily received in cases of ships from Europe, the *mutaṣaddīs* demanded a complete and accurate manifest, but to little purpose. At present, another ship of the Danish Company has arrived. Is led to think, from the past conduct of their Director, that in the present instance also an attempt will be made to defraud the *sarkār* by not presenting a true manifest of the ship. Formerly, when the honesty of the Danish Company was not doubted, the duty they paid on their ships was received in the *Bakhsh-bandar*, as indicated by their invoice. Now that they are inclined to be fraudulent, it is desirable to look into the cargo of the ship, otherwise the *sarkār* will suffer a loss. Says that it is not the practice to put *chaukīs* on the Company's ships, and he cannot do that unless authorised. And as regards the *gumāshtāh* referred to above, suggests that he should be severely dealt with.

(2) From Sayyid Muḥammad 'Alī Khān to Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has already informed the addressee of the high-handed proceedings of the Director of the Dutch Company and of his habit of interfering with the affairs of the *Faujdārī*. Has also made a report of the murder committed by the Director aforesaid. The victim's heirs are inconsolable; they are for ever petitioning the writer and Mr Lushington for justice. Says that he cannot call the offender to account for his acts unless authorised to do so. Has repeatedly made gentle remonstrances but to little avail.

Trans. R., 1771, no 180, pp. 135-7. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 159.

Sept. 23. **930.** From Chhōṭū Singh. Sends a *nazr* of 2 gold mohurs and 4 rupees on the occasion of his appointment to the office held by the late Raja Murlī Dhar.

Trans. R., 1771, no 181, p. 137.

Sept. 23. **931.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the Governor's letter desiring him to find out from Mēgh Rāy and Shaikh Barkatu'l-lah, timber merchants of Murshidabad, the price of timber such as Mr Williamson bought on account of the Company, between January and July 1768. The writer summoned the merchants who informed him that between the months of *Pūs* and *Asāṛh* the average price was Rs 7-7-0. Encloses a list of several assortments of timber with particulars about their prices.

Trans. R., 1771, no 182, p. 137. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 159.

Sept. 24. **932.** General Barker to the King. Begs to inform His Majesty that Ghulām 'Alī Khān has arrived with the *paṭṭū* which His Majesty has been graciously pleased to send for the writer. Says that he convoked an assembly of the grandees of the place, in order to receive publicly the Royal honour which has 'elevated his head to the skies', caused a salute of guns to be fired in honour of the auspicious occasion according to the custom of the English, and prayed for the advancement of His Majesty's greatness and power. He was very happy to receive

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also a verbal message from His Majesty through the Khān, who is now returning with the writer's expressions of gratitude. May the Sun of His Majesty's sovereignty ever shine upon the head of the peoples of the world.

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 123, p. 188.

Sept. 24. **933**. General Barker to the Raja of Ballia. Has received the addressee's *'arzī* and learnt its contents. Is glad to hear that the addressee has been reinstated in his *zamīndārī*. Says that he has been aware of the addressee's friendly behaviour [towards the English] since his visit to the addressee's country. The writer is sure that the addressee's devotion and loyalty have not changed and knows that his payment of revenue is regular now as before . . .[1]

Cop. I., 1770-1, no 124, p. 188.

Sept. 25. **934**. From Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Feels keenly the absence of correspondence, and hopes that letters will pass more frequently between the addressee and the writer, bound as both are by the ties of friendship. Says that the King, running short of funds at the time he was leaving for the capital, asked the writer to advance him 10 *lākhs* of rupees. In obedience to the Royal orders, the writer paid the sum and His Majesty gave him a draft for that amount on the Bengal tribute. Encloses a *shuqqah* addressed to the Governor. Hopes that His Excellency, having regard for the friendship that exists between him and the writer, will expeditiously arrange to send him the money out of the King's Bengal tribute.

Trans. R., 1771, no 183, p. 138. Abs. R., 1767-71, pp. 167-8.

Sept. 25. **935**. From the King [enclosed in the foregoing]. Is in excellent health, and ever anxious to hear of the Governor's welfare. Says that his *mutaṣaddīs* have obtained from the Vazīr an advance of 10 *lākhs* of rupees for the expenses of the Royal march to the capital. Has granted the Vazīr a draft for the amount on the Bengal tribute. Requests the Governor to pay the Vazīr's demand on the tribute before those of others. This will please His Majesty.

Trans. R., 1771, no 184, pp. 138-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 156.

Sept. 26. **936**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received his letter in which were enclosed copies of two letters from Sayyid Muḥammad 'Alī Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly, complaining of the refractory conduct of the Director of the Danish Company. It is astonishing indeed that a person of such little consequence or authority as the said Director should dare to oppose the orders of the Government. This is certainly due to the negligence and weakness of the *Niẓāmat*. Desires the addressee to direct the *Faujdār* of Hooghly to exert himself in maintaining the prestige of the *Niẓāmat*. The *Faujdār* should put *chaukīs* on the ship to realize proper duties, and should call upon the Director for an explanation and ask him to hand over Krishnā Kānta, his *gumāshtah*, who

[1] The letter ends here abruptly and is apparently incomplete.

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has insulted the officers of the *Nizāmat*. He can also take any other step which he may think proper in order to put a stop to this sort of thing in the future.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 168, pp. 66-7. Trans. I., 1771, no 74, pp. 43-4. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 101.

Sept. 30. **937**. From Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. At the time His Majesty was residing at Allahabad, the writer's son, Sa'ādat 'Alī Khan, used to remain in the Presence, while the writer stayed at Fyzabad. When His Majesty took it into his head to proceed to the capital, the writer disapproved of the idea. He regarded it as most unfortunate that the King should place himself in the power of the Mahrattas; if these should at any time be hostile to the English sardārs and the writer what was he to do? The writer went to the King and tried to dissuade him from his resolve to throw in his lot with the Mahrattas, but to little purpose. The only course open to him was to stop his son from attending on His Majesty, and this he did. And when he himself declined to remain in the Presence, His Majesty remonstrated with him on his seeming lack of attachment. The writer finding himself in a delicate position thought of a plan. It was this. He asked His Majesty to give him the fort of Allahabad as the rains were about to set in and his dependants were living in the open field. At the same time he told the King that it was not practicable to march to the capital during the rains. He thought that the King would not give him the fort and thus he would be spared the task of accompanying His Majesty on his march. But His Majesty gave it him. The writer has no wish to acquire it; for being in the hands of his friends the English, it can easily pass into his possession, for friends will ever work to help friends. Says that before General Barker left him, he had a talk with him about the fort and both agreed that the best thing would be to leave the question of its occupation for the present, and await news of the affairs westward[1]. Asks the Governor to do what he and the other English *sardārs* may think best in the matter of the fort. General Barker has also satisfied him with regard to some other affairs. This has further strengthened the ties of friendship. Has before this written several letters to which he has not received replies. Requests his friend, the Governor, to inform him of his views.

Trans. R., 1771, no 185, pp. 139-42. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 168.

Sept. 30. **938**. From Birj Kishōr Rāy. The *band-o-bast* of certain *parganahs* north of Burdwan could not be made this year. Their revenue used to be collected by the *qistbandī* system, but as the *qistbandī* accounts foretold a serious loss in the collections, the writer with Mr Stuart has farmed out some of these *parganahs* and settled others by public outcry. Is doing his best to promote the interests of the *Sarkar*, as the addressee must have learnt from Mr Stuart's correspondence.

[1] Refers to the progress of the King's march to Delhi.

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In spite of the drought from which the country suffered in 1176-7 *Faṣlī* there is still some hope from this year's crops. And this is due to the good work of Mr Stuart and the auspices of the Company. Prays that the Governor may be pleased to allow a remission in the revenue in case the present year's tenants come up with complaints at the end of the *mālguzārī* when accounts are closed. This will also help the writer to pay the allowances due to the tenants of the last two years, and the country will flourish. The Governor knows that from the beginning of the Company's Government to the end of the Bengali year 1174, the annual *mālguzārī* of the Burdwan province was duly paid according to the settlement made from time to time. After the year 1175, an increase of 2½ *lākhs* of rupees was made: this amount was happily collected. The year 1176 saw them raised by another *lākh*, but famine and drought had depopulated the country, and so the addressee left the sum of 2½ *lākhs* as a balance to be completed the next year. True, the *mālguzārī* was completed in 1177 but only with the greatest difficulty: it was made a little easier by the method of collection adopted: the farmers also were well-to-do people. But the case of the present *mālguzārī* is different, as His Excellency knows. Further, it is only fair that after the *mālguzārī* has been completed and the necessary expenses defrayed, a small portion of the revenue should go to the house of Raja Tēj Chand. But how can this be when the crops give so little hope as to render the *mālguzārī* itself doubtful? If His Excellency would remit a small part Raja Tēj Chand would gain the reputation of paying his *mālguzārī* regularly while his *Sarkar* would also benefit to some extent, and the writer will achieve credit at the same time. Has spoken to Mr Stuart on the subject and he will correspond with the addressee.

Trans. R., 1771, no 186, pp. 142-4. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 153.

Sept. 30. **939**. From Raja Tēj Chand. Refers the Governor to the correspondence of Mr Stuart and to that of his *Dīvān*, Birj Kishōr Rāy, relating to the state of the Burdwan province.

Trans. R., 1771, no 187, p. 144. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 165.

Oct. 2. **940**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Forwards a Royal *shuqqah* addressed to the Governor.

Trans. R., 1771, no 188, p. 144. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 164.

Oct. 2. **941**. From the King [enclosed in the foregoing]. Says that *shuqqahs* have repeatedly been addressed to the Governor, but for a long time he has not sent *'arẓīs* to the Presence. There has been unusual delay this year in sending the Bengal tribute to His Majesty, and the want of it is much felt in the Royal household. Desires the Governor to write urgently to the officers at Murshidabad to deliver the *qisṯs* of the tribute to the end of *Jumāda I, 12 Julūs,* to Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has already written a *shuqqah* on this subject.

Trans. R., 1771, no 189, pp. 144-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 156.

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Oct. 3. **942**. From the King. Has received an *'arẓī* from the addressee containing expressions of loyalty. Appreciates the spirit in which the *'arẓī* was written. Regards him as the strong arm of the Empire. The English *sardārs* are all well-wishers of His Majesty and they stand unparalleled in Hindustan for their devotion to the throne, their candour and their integrity. May they continue in their excellent principles ! As a Royal march to the capital has been definitely settled, it is necessary that the English troops should remain at Allahabad and Kora for the defence of those places. Desires the Governor to arrange for this and to take any steps he may think necessary to secure the end in view.

Trans. R., 1771, no 190, pp. 145-6. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 156.

Oct. 4. **943**. To Raja Tēj Chand. Acknowledges the receipt of 3 *lākhs* of rupees on account of Burdwan revenues.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 169, p. 67.

Oct. 4. **944**. To Birj Kishōr Rāy. To the same effect as the foregoing, adding that the addressee should try to send the *qiṣṭs* regularly.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 169, p. 67.

Oct. 4. **945**. To Chhōtū Singh. Has received his letter accompanying a *naẕr*, and learnt that the Members of the Council [at Patna] have appointed Sālik Rām and the addressee in the place of the late Raja Murlī Dhar. Desires them both to discharge their duties properly and to the satisfaction of the writer.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 170, p. 67.

Oct. 5. **946**. From Ghulām Ḥusain Khān. Has already forwarded to the Governor two letters from Nawab Fatḥu'l-lah Khān who is so sincerely attached to His Excellency. Expects some despatches from Nawab Ḥāfiẓ Raḥmat Khān which he will forward immediately they are received. Hopes the Governor will regard the writer as a well-wisher of the Company and correspond with him frequently.

Trans. R., 1771, no 191, p. 146.

Oct. 5. **947**. From Nawab Fatḥu'l-lah Khān. Says that the Governor's good qualities are proclaimed everywhere. Finds from the correspondence of his friend, Mīr Ghulām Ḥusain Khān, that the addressee always thinks kindly of him. Cannot find words sufficient to express his gratitude for this favour. Regards the Governor in the place of his departed father and hopes that His Excellency will look upon him as one devoted to him, and make him happy by writing to him often.

Trans. R., 1771, no 192, p. 146.

Oct. 5. **948**. From Nawab Fatḥu'l-lah Khān. Thanks the Governor for his letter of condolence on the death of the writer's father, Nawab Dūndī Khān, and prays that His Excellency will correspond with him frequently.

Trans. R., 1771, no 193. p. 146. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 154.

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Oct. 6. **949**. From Raja Tēj Chand. Sends a *qist* of 3 *lākhs* of rupees on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R., 1771, no 194, p. 147.

Oct. 6. **950**. From Birj Kishōr Rāy. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 195, p. 147.

Oct. 6. **951**. From Raja Rājballabh. Says that his circumstances are very well known to the Governor who, being his master and protector, will no doubt help him to set his affairs right. For a long time he has received no replies to his addresses and this has made him very uneasy. Hopes the Governor will remove his anxiety by favouring him with letters.

Trans. R., 1771, no 196, p. 147. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 166.

Oct. 7. **952**. From Muḥammad. On reaching Murshidabad, his uncle Ḥājī 'Abdu'r-Raḥīm Khān was laid up with a severe fever and dysentery. There he remained under treatment, as he informed the Governor. On 12 September he died having been ill for one month. Before this he had appointed the writer his *vakīl* and handed over to him the effects, deposits and all the affairs that the Nawab Vazīr had entrusted him with, ordering the writer to proceed to Calcutta, and buy shades, candles etc., for the Presence in obedience to Royal orders. Will come and pay his respects to the Governor in four or five days.

Trans. R., 1771, no 197, pp. 147-8.

Oct. 9. **953**. From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has, in reply to an address from him, been favoured with the Governor's letter authorising him to write to the *Faujdār* of Hooghly to put a stop to the illegalities practised by the Directors of the Danish and Dutch Companies, to station *chaukīs* on the Danish Company's ship till the duties on it have been fully realised, and to exact satisfaction from Krishnā Kānta, *gumāsthah* of the Danish Company, for the indignities he has heaped on the officers of the *Nizāmat*. Is writing to the *Faujdār* to carry out these directions, and is himself doing all he can to remove every existing evil.

Trans. R., 1771, no 198, p. 148. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 159.

Oct. 10. **954**. From the King. Says that *shuqqahs* have before this been issued concerning the payment by the Company of an annual allowance of 2 *lākhs* of rupees to Mirzā Najaf Khān, and the allowance has been paid to him month by month. Mirzā Najaf Khān is at this time attending on the Royal person performing his duties loyally, and His Majesty therefore desires the Governor to arrange to pay the Khān regularly every month the sum of Rs 16,666-11-8 which is the twelfth part of his yearly stipend.

Trans. R., 1771, no 199, pp. -9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 156.

Oct. 11. **955**. From Mirzā Najaf Khān. Has borrowed from certain merchants Rs 33,300-7-0, the amount of his stipend for 2 months

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to the end of *Ramazān*, from certain merchants. Has given them a receipt, and requests the Governor kindly to arrange immediately to pay them the amount from the Company's treasury, as he has no income other than this allowance from the Company.

Trans. R., 1771, no 200, p. 149. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 160.

Oct. 12. **956**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Forwards a letter from the Nawab Vazīr, addressed to the Governor.

Trans. R., 1771, no 201, pp. 149-50. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 164.

Oct. 12. **957**. From Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. A duplicate of his letter aforesaid.

Trans. R., 1771, no 202, p. 150.

Oct. 14. **958**. To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received his letter by the hands of Mīr Muḥammad Ḥusain. As he has a great regard for the addressee's friendship, he has directed the Chief of Patna and Raja Shitāb Rāy to inquire into the particulars of his complaint. In accordance with the addressee's request, the Raja has been asked to forward a copy of the proceedings to him. Is confident that everything will be settled to 'our' mutual satisfaction. Is always anxious about the addressee's welfare and hopes to receive letters every now and then.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 171, pp. 67-8. Trans. I., 1771, no 75, p. 44. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 106.

Oct. 14. **959**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy. Mīr Muḥammad Ḥusain has just brought the writer a letter from the Vazīr desiring him to look into a dispute between the said Mīr and one Gh͟ulām Ḥusain Kh͟ān of Behar and to decide it. As the writer has a great regard for the Vazīr's friendship and values his satisfaction above everything, he desires the addressee to summon Gh͟ulām Ḥusain Kh͟ān to the public court and try the case according to the law and practice of the country. The Vazīr's sole object is to obtain justice for the complainant, the addressee therefore should not give way to favour or partiality but so decide the case that the Vazīr may have no ground for complaints in the future. Desires him to forward a copy of the proceedings to the Vazīr. Encloses a letter from the Vazīr addressed to the writer.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 172, p. 68. Trans. I., 1771, no 76, pp. 44-5. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 103.

Oct. 14. **960**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Kh͟ān. During the time of Mr Harry Verelst seven *kh͟al'ats*, which were received from His Majesty, were entrusted to the addressee. Out of these one was given to Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Desires him to return the remaining six which will be distributed according to His Majesty's directions.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 173, pp. 68-9.

Oct. 18. **961**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Mr Joseph Jekyll is taking to the Governor the accounts of the *band-o-bast* of the *Ṣūbah* of Behar for

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1179-81 *Faslī*. Hopes the Governor will inform the writer of any instructions he may give Mr Jekyll.

Trans. R., 1771, no 204, p. 150. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 164.

Oct. 19. **962.** To Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. To maintain His Excellency's honour and dignity is always the foremost object of the writer's heart. Is therefore sorry to hear of the unsatisfactory behaviour of the *Nizāmat* sepoys attending on His Excellency's person. They are no better than a disorderly rabble, for they disobey the one who raised them. These evils arise for want of a strict master to teach them military laws and discipline. Advises His Excellency to train these sepoys anew and to appoint English officers in his battalions, as the Company do. If this is done, they will pay due respect and attention to His Excellency and will defend him in time of need and danger. The principal object of all this is to enhance His Excellency's honour and reputation. Hopes that His Excellency will express his views on this subject very soon.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 174, p. 69. Trans. I., 1771, no 77, p. 45. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 102.

Oct. 19. **963.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Perhaps the addressee is aware that the sepoys, who were appointed to work at the collection of the revenue, have proved themselves unequal to the task; and therefore sepoys from the Company's army have been employed. This has caused much inconvenience, and steps must be taken to remove the evil. The incompetence and improper behaviour of the *Nizāmat* sepoys lower the prestige of the Government. It is therefore necessary to reform them, so that they may at all times be serviceable both to the country and to the Nawab. Desires him to advise the Nawab to raise four battalions under the leadership of the English and to keep them under his immediate control. Thinks that this arrangement will ensure good results. The addressee in conjunction with the Gentlemen of the Council at Murshidabad is to settle their salaries. They will turn out to be good soldiers, if they are but paid reasonably and punctually. Hopes the addressee will carefully think over the suggestion and try his utmost to act upon it.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 175, pp. 69-70. Trans. I., 1771, no 78, pp. 45-6. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 102.

Oct. 19[1]. **964.** To Raja Tēj Chand. Has received Rs 1,60,521 on account of the Burdwan revenues. Desires him likewise to remit the future *qists* in time.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 179, pp. 70-1. Trans. I., 1771, no 79, p. 46. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 104.

Oct. 19[1]. **965.** To Birj Kishōr Rāy. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 179, pp. 70-1. Trans. I., 1771, no 80, p. 46. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 97.

[1] Nov. 3 according to the volume of copies.

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Oct. 20. **966**. From Munnī Bēgam. Offers compliments.

Trans. R., 1771, no 205, p. 150.

Oct. 22. **967**. From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Mr Barwell has arrived at Patna as Chief of the factory there, and offered the writer the usual compliments.

Trans. R., 1771, no 206, p. 150.

Oct. 25. **968**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Sends a present of attar.

Trans. R., 1771, no 207, p. 150.

Oct. 25[1]. **969**. To Munīru'd-Daulah. Is delighted to receive 20 *tolas* of rose-attar which was brought to the addressee from Kashmir. Hopes to receive letters always from him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 178, p. 70. Trans. I., 1771, no 81, p. 46.
Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 101.

Oct. 29. **970**. From Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Has received the Governor's letter about the raising of some battalions of sepoys for the *Niẕāmat* with European officers to command them. Will think over the matter and then send his reply.

Trans. R., 1771, no 208, p. 150. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 160.

Oct. 29. **971**. From Muḥammad Riẕā Khān. Has received the Governor's letter desiring him to arrange with the Gentlemen of the Council at Murshidabad to pay from Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah's stipend of 16 *lākhs* the four battalions which it is proposed to raise for the Nawab's service, with European officers to command them. As this is a matter requiring deliberation, the writer will send his reply later.

Trans. R., 1771, no 209, p. 151. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 159.

Nov. 2. **972**. From Nawab Iḥtirāmu'd-Daulah. Has not heard from the Governor for a very long time. Is anxious to receive news of His Excellency's welfare. A year and a half has passed and he has not received his annual allowance of Rs 25,000. Is keenly feeling the want of it. Prays that His Excellency may write to the Chief of Murshidabad to pay him the whole amount due to him, and for the future, to pay him monthly.

Trans. R., 1771, no 210, p. 151. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 169.

Nov. 3. **973**. To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Having learnt that the addressee wishes very much to see Mr Kettle, a painter, the writer has ordered him to proceed to Fyzabad. Says that he is a master of his art and hopes the addressee will be much pleased with him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 176, p. 70.

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[1] Nov. 3 according to the volume of copies.

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Nov. 3. **974.** To Munīru'd-Daulah. To the same effect as the foregoing, adding that the painter will go to Allahabad after he has taken his leave of the Vazīr. Hopes the addressee will give him every assistance.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 177, p. 70.

Nov. 8. **975.** From Nawab Mubārak'ud-Daulah. Has received the Governor's letter observing that the sepoys of the *Nizāmat* are a mere rabble who have failed to show the addressee the respect they owe him, and recommending that four battalions of sepoys be raised with European officers to command them, and that the expenses be met from his stipend of 16 *lākhs*. Says that the imputation of disobedience on the part of his attendants is evidently based on hearsay: they are not wanting in their sense of duty. The Governor is aware that the allowance for the sepoys is now less than it used to be in the time of his departed brother, Nawab Najmu'd-Daulah, and with this reduced allowance he has got to pay his dependants, including his relations, the nobility of Murshidabad and his domestic attendants—persons who have continued in the service of the *Nizāmat* from the time of his late father and are practically inseparable from it. Besides these, there are a few troopers, foot-soldiers, sentinels and matchlockmen who act as his body-guards or as gate-keepers of the Palace or are attached to the *Faujdārī*. If he is to raise four battalions of sepoys with European officers, and these are to be paid out of the 16 *lākhs* as Muḥammad Riẓā Khān has been instructed to arrange for, his dependants must be dismissed, and this cannot but impair the honour of his house. Hopes the Governor will continue to act in a way that will help the writer to maintain his position.

Trans. R., 1771, no 211, pp. 151-3. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 160.

Nov. 8. **976.** From Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Has received the Governor's letter remarking that the sepoys of the *Nizāmat* have not been of much use in the collection of revenue, stating that he proposes to suggest to Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah to raise four battalions of sepoys with European officers, and desiring the addressee to arrange with the Gentlemen of the Council at Murshidabad to pay the battalions from the Nawab's stipend of 16 *lākhs*. Says that all the time he has been *Nāib Nāẓim* he has done his very best to promote the interests of the Company. The expenses of the *Nizāmat* sepoys which were considerable, were reduced in the time of the late Nawab Najmu'd-Daulah to Rs 36,60,000. The writer worked for further economy and succeeded in bringing the amount down to 25 *lākhs*. After the death of Nawab Najmu'd-Daulah when the *Nizāmat* was settled upon the late Nawab Saifu'd-Daulah, the writer scrutinised the Nawab's accounts most minutely, and making all possible reductions recommended the present allowance of 16 *lākhs* which is the irreducible minimum. Has thought over the Governor's proposal about the raising of four battalions of sepoys under European officers and cannot see how this is going to be done, unless the men now in the pay of the *Nizāmat* are dismissed—a contingency which it is most desirable to avoid, for these men are either relations of the *Nāẓim* or have been so connected with the *Nizāmat* that they cannot

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be removed without lowering its prestige. Further, the few sepoys that act as the Nawab's body-guards, or work in the *Faujdārī* and the *Kachahrī* are absolutely necessary for those officers. Besides, their dismissal will not help to pay the expenses of a single battalion. Requests the Governor to consider all that he has represented.

Trans. R., 1771, no 212, pp. 153-5. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 159.

Nov. 10. **977**. From Munīru'd-Daulah. Hopes the Governor is in excellent health as he himself is. Has not been favoured with a single reply to the many letters he has sent and is naturally very uneasy. Prays to God that He may soon bring about an interview between the addressee and the writer.

Trans. R., 1771, no 213, pp. 155-6.

Nov. 13. **978**. From Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Intimates that he is sending Ḥājī 'Abdu'r-Raḥīm Khān to the Governor with some presents. Will be happy if he would procure him early a passage on board some ship to Mecca [1] and arrange to provide him with everything that he may require.

Trans. R., 1771, no 214, p. 156. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 168.

Nov. 16. **979**. From Mirzā Najaf Khān. Is happy, having received the Company's friendly letter commending his attendance upon the King, and observing that it is the means of doing the Company good. Says that he owes his position to the Company from whom he receives 2 *lākhs* of rupees annually. Has no other source of income, and naturally his interests are bound with those of the Company. Intimates that the King having concluded his business with the Afghāns at Farrukhabad is at present encamped at Baniaganj. The Mahrattas who left Shahjahanabad to meet His Majesty, have arrived at Anupshahr and are shortly expected in the Presence. Will inform the Governor of the trend of His Majesty's affairs after the Mahratta *sardārs* have visited him.

PS.—Says that the Governor has doubtless heard of what took place in the Royal Army between the addressee's people and the *vakīl* of the Mahratta *sardārs*. The writer has for a long time hated them, and now that this fresh incident has happened he simply loathes them. The Mahratta *sardārs* have perceived this and are gloomy. His Excellency well knows that the writer is the friend of those who are the Company's friends and the foe of those who are their foes. Is awaiting the arrival of the Mahratta *sardārs* in the Presence, after which he will communicate all that takes place.

Trans. R., 1771, no 215, pp. 156-7. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 161.

Nov. 20. **980**. From the *Faujdār* of Hooghly. Understands that the Director of the French Company is sending on board the Dutch ships from Chinsura, to some unknown destination, all European soldiers with

[1] The letter does not mention Mecca. The information is supplied from a letter received from 'Abdu'r-Raḥīm Khān on 21 September.

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the exception of 40 men. It is rumoured that they intend to raise bodies of sepoys in the place of these soldiers but that they have not begun recruiting yet.

Trans. R., 1771, no 216, p. 157. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 154.

Nov. 25. **981**. From Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has been informed that Ḥāji 'Abdu'r-Raḥīm Khān is dead. Requests the Governor to detain the late Ḥāji's boats, servants etc. till he sends another man to His Excellency.

Trans. R., 1771, no 217, p. 157. Abs. R., 1767-17, p. 168.

Nov. 27. **982**. To Sayyid Muḥammad 'Alī Khān, *Faujdār* of Hooghly. As vessels laden with exports are now about to sail, the addressee is asked to direct the merchants in that quarter to send their goods immediately to the Export Warehouse in Calcutta. Desires the addressee also to exert himself in preventing the export of goods through the French or any European nations other than the English.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 180, p. 71.

Nov. 28. **983**. From Munnī Bēgam. Offers compliments.

Trans. R., 1771, no 218, p. 157.

Nov. 30. **984**. From Raja Tēj Chand. Sends a *qisṭ* of Rs 2,75,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R., 1771, no 219, p. 157.

Nov. 30. **985**. From Birj Kishōr Rāy. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 220, p. 158.

Dec. 1. **986**. From the Nawab of Arcot. Some designing persons have prevailed upon Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah to put into prison Muḥammad Munīru'd-Dīn Khān, a relation of the writer, living at Gopamau. Requests the Governor, relying on the friendship that has so long existed between him and the Company, to write to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah for the release of Munīr'u'd-Dīn Khān.

The writer has long been anxious to obtain the village and *parganah* of Gopamau as *al-tamgha* from the King and Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah, and with this end in view, had spoken to the previous Governors, Lord Clive and Mr Vansittart, and told them that he was prepared to pay in advance five years' revenues calculated at 12,000 Pagodas a year. They consented to support him but war having broken out between Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah and the Company, nothing could be done. For the last three years the Nawab has usurped all the lands, gardens and other properties of the inhabitants of Gopamau which were theirs by right of *al-tamghas* enjoyed by their forefathers and themselves since the time of the Emperor Aurangzēb. This usurpation has caused them untold hardship. The writer does not doubt the Nawab's goodness of heart; he must have yielded to the influence of some intriguing person. If

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the governor does not find it possible to procure the writer the village and *parganah* of Gopamau (he is even prepared to pay ten years' revenues in advance) he would request him to use his good offices to secure the restoration of *al-tamghas* to the inhabitants.

PS.—If Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah should desire any money for the release of Munīru'd-Dīn Khān, the Governor is requested to pay him the amount that may be fixed, not exceeding Rs 12,000. This sum will be repaid to the Governor through any person he may mention in the writer's country. Some of his dependants finding Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah unfriendly to them, intend to come to Arcot and stay there for a while. They will first go to Calcutta, and if his ship be there at the time they will sail on board. If not, he would ask the Governor to secure them a passage on board some other ship. The writer will of course pay for their passage. The bearer of this letter is Shaikh Islām Khān who is charged with the writer's affairs. He has been supplied with money for his expenses. Requests the Governor to assist him in finding bearers, either as servants on fixed pay or on daily wages and then give him a *dastak* and send him to Oudh, writing at the same time to the Commanding Officer residing with Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah to afford him necessary facilities in conducting the business of his mission. If on his return from Oudh, Shaikh Islām Khān should ask the Governor for any money, he should not be given it.

Trans. R., 1771, no 221, pp. 158-9. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 161.

Dec. 4. **987.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has already communicated to the Governor what information he received about the King and the Mahratta *sardārs*. His Majesty has been waiting at Baniaganj expecting the arrival of Mādhōjī Sindhia. Understands from a paper of news received 'today' (27 November) that Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān, who was deputed by the King to negotiate with the Mahratta *sardārs*, arrived in company with 'Alī Naqī Khān and had a meeting with His Majesty on 15 November. It was decided that His Royal Highness the Prince should go out and receive Mādhōjī Sindhia who was encamped at a distance of 1 *kōs*. So the Prince set out on 18 November together with all the nobles of the Court and arrived at 4 o'clock in the afternoon at the camp of Mādhōjī Sindhia, who had an audience with His Royal Highness and presented him with a *nazr* of 11 gold mohurs, four trays containing cloths, and a tray of jewels. The relations of Mādhōjī Sindhia presented a *nazr* of 7 gold mohurs, and offered *nazrs* also to the dependants of the Prince according to their ranks and stations. The Prince then left and returned to His Majesty at a half past six. Two hours later, Mādhōjī Sindhia with all his retinue arrived in the Presence and offered a *nazr* of 50 gold mohurs. His relations gave 21 gold mohurs each. Mādhōjī was honoured with a *khal'at* of six pieces and given a *sarpēch*, a *jīgha*, a string of pearls, an elephant, a horse and a sabre. The relations of Mādhōjī and the other Mahratta *sardārs* were awarded *khal'ats* of five pieces each. As this was the first day of the interview, no conference on business

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took place. Saifu'd-Dīn Muḥammad Khān represented to His Majesty that in addition to 6 *lākhs* of rupees which he took from the banker Gangā Rām, he required another 6 *lākhs* to defray expenses. Nothing is settled yet, so the writer will communicate later how matters stand.

On 17 November, 'Abdu'l-Aḥad Khān and Shām Lāl Munshī who had been deputed by Ẓābiṭah Khān arrived at the Royal camp and presented His Majesty with a *nazr* of 111 gold mohurs on the part of Ẓābiṭah Khān and 21 on account of themselves. H. R. H. the Prince was presented with a *nazr* of 5 gold mohurs. 'Abdu'l-Aḥad Khān was honoured by the King with a *khal'at* of seven pieces with jewels and was given a string of pearls and an elephant. Shām Lāl Munshī received a *khal'at* of five pieces with a *sarpēch* and a horse. Will inform the Governor of the result of the conferences of these people with His Majesty.

Trans. R., 1771, no 222, pp. 159-60. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 164.

Dec. 5. **988**. To Raja Tēj Chand. Acknowledges the receipt of a *qist* of the Burdwan revenues for the months of *Katick* and *Aghan*.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 181, p. 71.

Dec. 5. **989**. To Birj Kishōr Rāy. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 181, p. 71.

Dec. 7. **990**. To the Sulṭān of Sulu. It appears from the report of Captain Mercer, a respectable and prudent Englishman, that the addressee forced him to accept a bond for . . . [1] dollars being the price of goods he bought of him instead of paying him in cash. Such treatment was never expected from the addressee. He should remember that the prosperity of a country depends upon its trade. Every obstacle that he puts in the way of the merchants trading in his country will cause a fall in the revenue and bring trouble to the inhabitants. The captain is going again to the addressee's country in order to receive payment of the bond which was given him. Hopes the addressee will clear his account which will add to his glory and reputation.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 182, pp. 71-2.

Dec. 10. **991**. From Raja Tēj Chand. Sends a *qist* of Rs 3,20,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R., 1771, no 223, p. 160.

Dec. 10. **992**. From Birj Kishōr Rāy. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 224, p 160.

Dec. 10[2]. **993**. To the Vazīr. Shaikh Islām Khān has recently arrived from the Nawab of Arcot with some commissions to carry out. Says that the addressee, the English Company and the Nawab are great friends: they are really 'one soul in three bodies'. Hopes the addressee will

[1] The amount has disappeared, the paper being badly worm-eaten.
[2] Dec. 18 according to the volume of copies.

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accede to the Nawab's request and thereby please both him and the writer. The Nawab is much concerned to hear that the addressee is vexed with Munīru'd-Dīn Khān, a relation of his, and has put him into prison. He says that the Khān is really innocent, but the intrigues and artifices of his enemies and the misrepresentations of self-interested people have got him into trouble. As desired by the Nawab the writer sends Shaikh Islām Khān to the addressee with the request that he will forgive Munīru'd-Dīn Khān and set him free. Hopes that out of regard for 'our' long-standing friendship and the Nawab's prestige, he will give the man his freedom. This will please the writer and add to the reputation of the addressee. The Nawab of Arcot made repeated applications to Lord Clive and Mr Verelst to request the addressee to sell him the *parganah* of Gopamau which lies in the addressee's country. The writer does not remember if those gentlemen complied with the Nawab's request nor how the matter ended. Requests the addressee, whom he considers his best friend and whose satisfaction he values above everything, to communicate his views in this matter, so that the Nawab may be informed thereof. As the said *parganah* was the abode of the Nawab's ancestors and is the place where some of his relations still reside, the Nawab wishes very much to have it as *al-tamgha*. Hopes the addressee will grant the request of the Nawab and thereby earn his gratitude and that of his family.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 183, pp. 72-3. Trans. I., 1771, no 86, pp. 47-8. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 106.

Dec. 10[1]. **994**. To Muhammad Rizā Khān. The bearer Shaikh Islām Khān has recently arrived from Nawab Anwaru'd-Dīn Khān Bahādur Manṣūr Jang of Arcot with some commissions to carry out. He is now proceeding to the Court of Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah at Fyzabad. Desires the addressee to supply him with everything he may require during his stay at Murshidabad, for the Nawab of Arcot and the English Company are great friends.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 184, p. 73. Trans. I., 1771, no 87, p. 48. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 102.

Dec. 10[1]. **995**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 184, p. 73. Trans. I., 1771, no 88, p. 48. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 103.

Dec. 10[1]. **996**. To Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. To the same effect.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 104, p. 73. Trans. I., 1771, no 89, p. 48. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 98.

[1] Dec. 18 according to the volume of copies.

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Dec. 11. **997.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has before this informed the Governor of the arrival of Mādhōjī Sindhia at the Royal camp and his meeting with the King. Understands from a paper of news received 'today' (2 December) that His Majesty left Baniaganj on 25 November, marched 3 *kōs* and encamped near the tents of Mādhōjī Sindhia on the way to the Capital. Mādhōjī is attending on His Majesty and both are agreed upon carrying the Royal Standard to Shahjahanabad. The business on which 'Abdu'l-Aḥad Khān and Shām Lāl Munshī have been deputed to the Presence by Nawab Ẓābiṭah Khān has not yet been settled. Will communicate particulars as they come to his knowledge.

Trans. R., 1771, no 225, p. 161.

Dec. 15. **998.** From Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has already reported the King's departure from Baniaganj. From a paper of news received 'today' (Friday, 4 December), understands that Muḥammad Ēlich Khān and Raja Himmat Singh who had been deputed to the Presence by Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah, took their leave of His Majesty on 25 November and started for Fyzabad. On 26 November, the Royal tents were sent forward and pitched near the *sarāi* of Aggan which is 20 *kōs* from Baniaganj. On 28 November, the march to Shahjahanabad will be resumed, and as suggested by Mādhōjī Sindhia, His Majesty will travel by stages of 6 *kōs* and then halt for two days. Reports that Ẓābiṭah Khān continues in his former residence.

Trans. R., 1771, no 226, p. 161. Abs. R., 1767-71, p. 164.

Dec. 16[1]. **999.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy. Is greatly pleased with the addressee since he has always communicated the movements of His Majesty and the Mahratta *sardārs*. Acknowledges his letter saying that Mādhōjī Sindhia had an audience with His Majesty and received *khal'ats* and other gifts from him. Hopes the addressee will likewise communicate all the intelligence he receives hereafter.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 185, pp. 73-4. Trans. I., 1771, no 90, p. 48. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 103.

Dec. 18. **1000.** To the King. The bearer Major Morrison is wanted in England to attend to some inportant affairs. It is thought requisite that he should go overland *via* Ispahan, Turkestan and Russia. Requests His Majesty to help him in every way.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 186, p. 74.

Dec. 18. **1001-3.** Similar letters to Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah, to Munīru'd-Daulah, and to Mirzā Najaf Khān.

Cop. I., 1770-2, nos 187-9, pp. 74-5.

Dec. 23. **1004.** To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Mr Fowke, who has now returned from England, intends to proceed to Benares and stay there. As the said gentleman is wise, intelligent and well-mannered, the addressee is requested to attend to his wants and help him. This will enhance the reputation of the addressee and please the writer.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 190, p. 75.

[1] Dec. 18 according to the volume of copies.

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Dec. 23. **1005-6**. Similar letters to Munīru'd-Daulah and to Chait Singh, Raja of Benares.

Cop. I., 1770-2, nos 190-1, p. 75.

Dec. 25. **1007**. From the King. Has not received an *'arẓī* from the Governor for a long time. Wonders why there should be so much delay on his part in writing his *'arẓīs*. Has not marched very far away, so letters intended for the writer need not take any unusually long time to reach him. Remembers the addressee's faithful services and is even inclined to favour him. Hopes to hear frequently from him about his health and situation.

Trans. R., 1771, no 227, pp. 161-2.

Dec. 28. **1008**. From Raja Tej Chand. Sends a *qist̠* of Rs 6,20,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Trans. R., 1771, no 229, p. 162.

Dec. 28. **1009**. From Birj Kishōr Rāy. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Trans. R., 1771, no 230, p. 163.

Dec. 28[1]. **1010**. To Nawab Iḥtirāmu'd-Daulah. Has, before the receipt of his letter, directed the officials at Murshidabad to remit the annual allowance which the addressee receives from the Company. Hopes the addressee has received it by this time. His allowance will be sent to him regularly every year after the collection of the revenue. Is a well-wisher of the addressee and desires him always to correspond.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 191, p. 75. Trans. I., 1771, no 91, p. 49. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 107.

Dec. 29. **1011**. To the Raja of Burdwan. Acknowledges the receipt of a *qist̠* of the Burdwan revenues.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 192, p. 75. Trans. I., 1771, no 92, p. 49. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 104.

Dec. 29. **1012**. To the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 192, p. 75. Trans. I., 1771, no 93, p. 49. Abs. I., 1766-71, p. 97.

Jan. 3. **1013**. To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Requests him to allow the bearer, Mr Archdeacon, to coin two or three *lākhs* of rupees at Benares unless this should occasion the addressee any loss. This will strengthen 'our' friendship and please the said gentleman. Hopes to receive letters always from him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 193, pp. 75-6.

Jan. 3. **1014**. To Himmat Singh Has just received a letter from Anwaru'd-Dīn K̲h̲ān, Nawab of Arcot, asking for a few pieces of *āb-i-rawān*, which is manufactured in the addressee's district. Desires him to look for and obtain a superior quality of *āb-i-rawān* and send it soon to the writer.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 194, p. 76.

[1] Dec. 29 according to the volume of copies.

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Jan. 11. **1015**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. The ship, which has now arrived from England, has brought the writer some instructions from the Company. As the writer's duty is to carry out the commands of the Company, he communicates them to the addressee for information. The Company say that 5 *lākhs* of rupees a year will be sufficient for the addressee to maintain his position in the execution of his duties. This sum he will receive as Regent during the minority of Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 195, p. 76.

Jan. 11. **1016**. To Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Being a servant of the Company the writer is bound to execute their commands. Has just received from them instructions which he communicates to the addressee. The Company say that having regard to the fact that the addressee is only a minor, the stipend which he has been receiving is more than what is necessary. They have therefore decided to reduce the sum to Rs 15,81,991-9-0 a year. When he attains the age of twenty one, the Company will reconsider his case and increase the allowance if necessary. Is always anxious about the addressee's welfare and hopes to receive letters from him every now and then.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 196, pp. 76-7.

Jan. 18. **1017**. To the Raja of Burdwan. Acknowledges the receipt of a *qisṭ* of the Burdwan revenues. Hopes that he will also try to be regular in the remittance of his *qisṭ* in the future.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 197, p. 77.

Jan. 18. **1018**. To the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 197, p. 77.

Jan. 18. **1019**. To 'Abdu'l-lah Khān, *Faujdār* of Balasore. Mr Marriott will buy rice in the addressee's district in order to send down to Calcutta. Desires him to use his best endeavours in collecting rice for the purpose. This will please the writer.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 198, p. 77.

Jan. 18. **1020**. To Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah. Is sending for the addressee a horse which appeared to the writer very nice-looking. He may have many such horses in his stable but the one which the writer is sending may be regarded as a token of his friendship. Will be much pleased if the horse is acceptable to the addressee. Hopes to receive letters from him frequently.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 199, p. 77.

Jan. 18. **1021**. To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. During the early part of Mr Verelst's administration several letters were received from the addressee complaining of the conduct of some *gumāshtahs* of the English. Fearing that this state of things might break up the friendship existing between the addressee and the Company the writer recalled the

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gumāshtahs who were ordered not to trade beyond the Karamnasa. The addressee had agreed to allow the English to trade in his country by virtue of a treaty concluded between him and Lord Clive at Cheeran Chapra. The English have ever studied the pleasure of the addressee and have worked for the good of his country and they will continue to do so in the future. Hopes the addressee will look to the prosperity of the English *sardārs*, as his interests are identical with theirs, and never allow such things as may cause them loss or injury. The writer cannot adequately signify the extent of the loss that the Company have suffered from their trade being stopped beyond the Karamnasa. The merchandise such as broadcloth, iron, copper and lead which the Company imported to this country during the last 3 years is now being sold in Calcutta at a loss to the Company, whereas it used to yield a considerable profit before. The vessels coming into this country are so heavily laden with merchandise that it is hard to sell all in Bengal alone. As there are no demands from other provinces the Company have to suffer a great loss. In the treaty above referred to, it was agreed upon that the English would have the privilege of trading in the addressee's country. The abolition of the trade has deprived both the addressee and the English of the profits they equally shared before. Requests him to allow the English to renew their trade in the said articles in his country. The addressee can impose any reasonable duty he pleases on the other articles of the merchants trading in his dominions.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 200, pp. 77-9.

Jan. 20. **1022.** To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Says that on the eve of his departure from Allahabad he had made certain representations to the addressee in conjunction with General Smith and Mr Russell. The addressee gave them a favourable consideration and removed all anxieties from the minds of the English. The writer also complained of the support which M. Gentil, an open enemy of the Company, received at the addressee's hands, but the latter's replies and assurances fully satisfied him and he returned to Calcutta contented. Troubles the addressee again with this fresh representation, although he fully believes in his words and promises. Thinks it desirable to tell him plainly all that comes to his knowledge. There is a rumour that the French receive countenance in his court without any consideration of their respectability and position. Hopes this is not true, as they are the enemies of the English. Is confident that the addressee will sincerely keep his words and promises as the English do.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 201, p. 79.

Jan. 22. **1023.** To Raja Shitāb Rāy. Has received his letter enquiring how to answer the King's *shuqqahs* about the draft of 10 *lākhs*. Says that when His Majesty set out for the capital the revenues of Bengal had not been collected and hence the payment of the draft was delayed. With regard to the draft forwarded through the addressee, he should

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inform the King that as instructed in his *shuqqah* to the writer the draft for 10 *lākhs* granted to the Vazīr will be paid first and then the other drafts will be attended to.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 202, pp. 79-80.

Jan. 22. **1024**. To Raja Parsudh Rāy. The addressee handed over to Mr Verelst, when Governor, a draft on the Vazīr for Rs 43,000. This was subsequently made over to the writer when, accompanied by General Smith and Mr Russell, he went to Allahabad. The writer gave the draft to General Barker who obtained the amount from the Vazīr. The amount was realized for the expenses of the army. As it is not known how the addressee came to make the draft on the Vazīr, he is requested to furnish the information quickly. Has received no letter from him for a long time. Cannot understand why he has stopped correspondence. Hopes to hear of his welfare.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 203, p. 80.

Jan. 22. **1025**. To Raja Chait Singh. Sayyid Jabbar ʿAlī has brought him the addressee's letter. Is very glad to learn that the addressee has sent the revenue of his *zamīndārī* to Nawab Shujāʿu'd-Daulah and received a *khalʿat* from him. Desires him always in this manner to satisfy the Nawab and the English *sardārs*. This will bring him reputation and good name.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 204, pp. 80-1.

Jan. 22. **1026**. To Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah Has received his letter accompanying winter cloths by the hands of Raja Kāshī Nāth. Offers thanks. Hopes to receive letters of his welfare every now and then.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 205, p. 81.

Jan. 27. **1027**. To the Nawab of Arcot. Is delighted to receive his letter through Shaikh Islām Khān. Has in compliance with the addressee's request, written to the Vazīr recommending the release of Muḥammad Munīru'd-Dīn Khān and has handed the letter over to Islām Khān. Hopes the Vazīr, out of regard for 'our' friendship, will accept the recommendation. Has also communicated to the Vazīr all that was necessary about the *parganah* of Gopamau. The addressee need not be anxious about the result. It will be communicated to him as soon as the Vazīr's reply is received. Will do all in his power to assist the addressee in gaining his object. The writer supplied Shaikh Islām Khān with all that he required during his stay here. Is ever anxious to hear of the addressee's welfare and hopes to receive letters always from him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 206, pp. 81-2.

Jan. 27. **1028**. To the Nawab of Arcot. Has received his letter accompanying a *khalʿat*, a diamond ring, a piece of white cloth and two dog-collars. One of the collars will be sent to Muḥammad Riẓā Khān for his dog as directed. Is delighted to hear of the successful wedding of

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'Umdatu'l-Umara and Madāru'l-Mulk. Sends the addressee four bucklers of wolf-hide, some attar of roses etc. according to the list given below. Has written a letter to Raja Himmat Singh of Jahangirnagar for *āb-i-rawān*, which will be sent to the addressee when it is received and the attar of aloe when it is available.

List[1] *of the articles* :—

Gold brocade	. . . . .	4 pieces.
Silver ,,	. . . . .	2 ,,
Embroidered cloth	. . .	8 ,,
Silken cloth	. . . .	12 ,,
Embroidered *maqn'ah* of Benares	.	8 ,,
. . .		
Bucklers of wolf-hide	. . .	4 ,,
Attar of roses	. . . .	22 *tolās*.
. . .		

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 207, p. 82.

Feb. 4. **1029**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy. Acknowledges the receipt of his letter accompanying a basket of fruits and offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 208, p. 83.

Feb. 4. **1030.** To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. To the same effect as the one addressed to Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah dated 22 January 1772. (*See above* no 1026.)

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 209, p. 83.

Feb. 4. **1031**. To the Raja of Burdwan. Acknowledges the receipt of Rs 4,50,000 on account of the Burdwan revenues by the hands of Gauri Malik, his *vakīl*.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 210, p. 83.

Feb. 4. **1032**. To the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 210, p. 83.

Feb. 8. **1033**. To Jasārat Khān. Has received his letter by the hands of Mīr Fazl 'Alī Khān. Says that Mr Hastings, who is to succeed him, is very well informed of the addressee's good services. He and the Members of his Council will have due regard for the addressee's position. There is no room for anxiety. Hopes to hear from him every now and then.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 211, p. 83.

[1] Some items have been left out as they are either worm-eaten or illegible.

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Feb. 8. **1034**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Khwājah ... [1] had lent money to the *zamīndārs* in the *mufaṣṣal*. It now appears that he cannot realize anything from them either out of the capital or of the interest. It is desirable that *zamīndārs* should behave well to their *mahājans*, though in the present case it cannot be denied that the loan was issued at a very high rate of interest. Desires him to help the Khwājah, who is now going to the addressee with this letter, in realizing the money from those *zamīndārs* who are able to discharge their debts.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 212, pp. 83-4.

Feb. 13. **1035**. To Najaf Khān. Has received his letter expressing his friendly sentiments for the Company and the writer and giving news of that quarter [Shahjahanabad]. As he is attending upon His Majesty, it is certain that he is fully acquainted with the Royal intentions. As the addressee is a great friend of the Company, he is requested to communicate in his next letter all that he knows about His Majesty, and inform the writer of the views of the Sikhs, Jats and Rohillas and the attitude of the Mahrattas.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 213, p. 84.

Feb. 13. **1036**. To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has just received eight pictures from England which are sent to the addressee. Hopes he will be very much pleased to receive them. Is always anxious about the addressee's welfare and will be glad to receive letters from him every now and then.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 214, p. 84.

Feb. 13. **1037**. To Chait Singh, Raja of Benares. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 215, p. 84.

Feb. 14. **1038**. To the King. The messenger who rides a camel delivered the writer His Majesty's *shuqqah* which was written from Shahjahanabad. Is delighted to learn that His Majesty keeps good health. Has observed all that he has written about the *qisṭs* [of the Bengal tribute]. The writer remitted 6 *lākhs* to the *Sarkār* after he had received a *shuqqah* on this subject before. He is now trying his best to arrange for the remittance of another *qisṭ*. The writer is always obedient to His Majesty; the Royal pleasure and satisfaction are the foremost object of his heart. Hopes that His Majesty will exalt him with the news of his welfare.

PS.—Sends 4 bottles of balsam oil by the hands of the said messenger as His Majesty commanded. Hopes frequently to be favoured in this way with Royal requisitions.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 216, pp. 84-5.

[1] The name has disappeared, the paper being badly worm-eaten.

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Feb. 14. **1039**. To Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. Has received his letter expressing his views on the actions of His Majesty and those of the Mahratta *sardārs*. Agrees fully with the addressee in his plan for counteracting the evil intentions of the Mahrattas against the Rohillas. Considers the addressee's move at the present moment highly proper, for it is the only course that can frustrate the designs of the Mahrattas. Has advised General Barker to accompany the addressee to the frontiers of his territories in order to help him to punish the enemy of the country. Requests him to do all that can secure the good of the country as well as of the people. Hopes to receive letters always from him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 217, pp. 85-6.

Feb. 15. **1040**. To the Raja of Burdwan. Acknowledges the receipt of 1 *lākh* on account of the Burdwan revenues.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 218, p. 86.

Feb. 15. **1041**. To the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 218, p. 86.

Feb. 15. **1042**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy. Acknowledges the receipt of eleven baskets of grapes and seventeen apples. Offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 219, p. 86.

Feb. 15. **1043**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy, *Nāib Nāẓim* of Behar. Has received successively his three letters informing him of the state of affairs in that quarter. Hopes to hear from him always in the future.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 220, p. 86.

Feb. 22. **1044**. To the Nawab of Arcot. Has received from England a letter for the addressee, which is sent to him by the hands of Mr Floyer. Hopes to receive letters frequently from him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 221, p. 86.

Feb. 25. **1045**. To the Raja of Burdwan. Acknowledges the receipt of a *qist* of the Burdwan revenues.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 222, p. 86.

Feb. 25. **1046**. To the *Dīvān* of Burdwan. To the same effect as the foregoing.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 222, p. 86.

Feb. 26. **1047**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Acknowledges the receipt of a present of pomegranates, and offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 223, pp. 86-7.

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Feb. 26. **1048**. To Muḥammad Riẓā Khān. Various causes prevent the writer from leaving for England this year. Requests the addressee's permission to continue to occupy his house.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 224, p. 87.

Mar. 7. **1049**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy. Acknowledges the receipt of a *ḥuqqah* with all its accompaniments, some rose attar of Peshawar and a few pieces of cloth by the hands of the addressee's *vakīl* according to the list enclosed in his letter. Offers thanks. Desires the addressee always to correspond with him.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 225, p. 87.

Mar. 26. **1050**. To Raja Shitāb Rāy. Acknowledges the receipt of his letter accompanying a basket of Kabul fruits, and offers thanks.

Cop. I., 1770-2, no 226, p. 87.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A.

The Nāib Nāẓim.

By the death of Mīr Ja'far, Nawab *Nāẓim* of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa in February 1765, the *masnad* of Murshidabad fell vacant.[1] Without any right to interfere in the choice of a successor, there were nevertheless two strong motives which impelled the Council at Calcutta to set up a nominee of their own. The one was personal and selfish; the other was the interest of the Company whose servants they were. They had seen the riches their predecessors had reaped by the elevation of Mīr Ja'far to the *masnad* in 1757, by that of his successor in 1760, by Mīr Ja'far's restoration three years later, and they had not forgotten the lesson they had learnt from placing a strong and vigorous ruler like Mīr Qāsim on the throne. Accordingly the choice of the Council, then reduced by vacancies to eight members, fell upon Najmu'd-Daulah, the fifteen-year old son of the late Nawab Mīr Ja'far. The minority of the new Nawab was made the excuse for appointing a Regent, a creature of the Company's who should wield at their command whatever power was still left to the now nominal *Ṣubahdār*. Muḥammad Riẓā Khān, Governor of Dacca and a friend of Lord Clive, was appointed *Nāib Nāẓim*,[2] or Deputy Ruler, on a salary of 3 *lākhs*[3] of rupees a year with the title of *Muzaffar Jang*. In vain the Nawab protested against the selection of Muḥammad Riẓā Khān; the Council were firm, and he had to give way. He refused however to hold any direct communication with the Deputy thus thrust upon him, and who could not be removed without the consent of the Council at Calcutta. All state affairs were carried on between the *Nāẓim* and his *Nāib* by means of an intermediary, a courtier of the name of Munshi Sadru'd-Dīn. Two other noblemen the Jagat Sēth,[4] reputed the richest banker in India, and Raja Rāy Durlabh were also nominated, ostensibly as Assistants to the *Nāib Nāẓim*, in reality to keep a check and a watch upon him. Thus the Nawab became a mere dependent of the Company. He had to renew the treaty of alliance and amity concluded between his predecessors and the Company, and had to leave the entire management of the state to his newly appointed Deputy through whom he was to receive even his stipulated pension of 53 *lākhs* of rupees a year.

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[1] As a matter of fact the old Nawab had placed his son Najmu'd-Daulah on the *masnad* a few days before his death. See letter no 2549; also introduction to Volume I (above).

[2] The title and office dates back to the time of Shah Jahān.

[3] This amount is given by Major Walsh, *History of Murshidabad*. p. 170. But obviously the Khān's salary was increased when he was further vested with the office of *Nāib Dīvān* to the Company. For in a letter to the Court of Directors dated 24 January 1767 the Council say that they have assigned 12 *lākhs* of rupees a year for the maintenance and support of Muḥammad Riẓā Khān, Rāy Durlabh and Shitāb Rāy. Again later on in letter no. 1015 of the Calendar we find that the Khān's salary was fixed at 5 *lākhs* of rupees a year which he was to receive as Regent during the minority of Nawab Mubāraku'd-Daulah.

[4] This is in reality a title meaning 'banker of the world.' His proper name was Khush-Ḥal Chand.

Najmu'd-Daulah had been some months on the throne when Lord Clive landed in Bengal, having been sent out again by the Directors of the East India Company with full powers to reform the abuses now grown chronic among their servants in India.[1] On the very day of his landing the English troops at Kora gained a decisive victory over Shujā'u'd-Daulah ,Nawab Vazīr of Oudh, and obliged him, like the Emperor, to throw himself on the mercy of the English. Clive at once set himself to make the best use of the event in order to advance the interests of the Company and place their political power on a firmer footing. He concluded a treaty with the vanquished Emperor and his Vazīr under the terms of which the Emperor granted to the Company the *Dīvānī, i.e.*, the right of collecting and receiving the revenues of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, in return for an annual tribute of Rs. 26,00,000 and certain territorial concessions. It was this grant that transferred to the Company the whole of the civil administration of the *ṣūbah*. If Clive understood the immense significance of this bargain, he did not mean that others should or that they should suspect (until it was too late) the real extent of the powers which the Company wielded. In a letter to the Select Committee he wrote: 'We are sensible that since the acquisition of the Dewannee the power formerly belonging to the Subah of these provinces is totally in fact vested in the East India Company. Nothing remains to him but the name and shadow of authority. This name however, this shadow it is indisensably necessary we should *seem* to venerate ... Under the sanction of a Subah every encroachment that may attempted by foreign powers can effectually be crushed without any apparent interposition of our own authority ... Nor can it be supposed that either the French, Dutch, or Danes would readily acknowledge the Company's Subahship and pay in to the hands of their servants the duties upon trade or the quit rents of those districts which they may have long been possessed of by virtue of the royal phirmaund or grants from former nabobs.'[2] He realized too the difficulties that would arise if the fiscal administration of the country were at once taken over directly by the European officers of the Company, who could know nothing of the intricacies of the various land-tenures and other institutions prevailing in the provinces, on which the revenue system was based. Accordingly he vested the power of the Company as the *Dīvān* of the Great Mughal in Muḥammad Riẓa Khān the *Nāib Nāẓim* at Murshidabad, and another friend of his named Suitāb Rāy. The latter had represented the Company in negotiating with the Emperor Shah 'Ālam both before and after the battle of Buxar, and was now likewise appointed *Nāib Nāẓim* at Patna for the Province of Bihar on an annual salary of 1 *lākh* of rupees. Thus the two noblemen, who were not merely *Nāib Nāẓims* but *Nāib Dīvāns*, united in their persons the double functions of Civil and Executive Administrators of the country, carrying on the government entirely through Indian officials.

Clive sailed for England on 29 January 1767. But no sooner had he turned his back than the defects of the system he had inaugur-

[1] See Imperial Record dept., *Secret dept. of inspection press-list*, passim. (Calcutta. 1917. fol.)

[2] *Proceedings of the Select Committee*, 16 Jan. 1767, pp. 31-2.

ated began to show themselves. While he left all real power with the Company, the responsibility of government still lay with the *Nāib Nāẓims* and their native subordinates. This divided authority coupled with the rapacity of the European employés of the Company and their native *gumāshtahs*, eager only to profit by private trade, made the lot of the ryot and the artizan unbearable. Extortion and oppression were rife; the country was impoverished; lands were thrown out of cultivation, so that when the great famine of 1770 swept over Bengal it carried off more than one third of the total populace leaving the rest in utter destitution. All this was well perceived by the Board at Fort William when in 1769 they appointed in each district a European Supervisor to control the work of the native revenue collectors. But as this remedy brought little improvement, they next set up two Councils of Revenue, one at Murshidabad and the other at Patna, greatly restraining the powers of the *Nāib Dīvāns*, who day by day saw the control of affairs gradually slipping from their hands. Yet neither Supervisors nor Councils could arrest the growing evil and in 1770 the Company so far from profiting by the grant of the *Dīvānī* found itself on the verge of bankruptcy. The Directors at London justly alarmed at the situation which was becoming worse and worse, decided to assume the direct management of the revenues and in 1772 appointed Warren Hastings Governor to extricate them from their difficulties. On his arrival in Calcutta the two *Nāib Dīvāns*, who had held office under three successive Nawabs, *viz.* Najmu'd-Daulah, Saifu'd-Daulah and Mubāraku'd-Daulah, were arrested on charges of misappropriation and embezzlement and brought down to Calcutta for trial. They were however found innocent and were reinstated as *Nāib Nāẓims*, but not as *Nāib Dīvāns*. The powers of the former were now greatly reduced, and if the office was suffered to continue it was more as an act of courtesy to the injured parties than from any real need. Shitāb Rāy died in 1773, and Muḥammad Riẓā Khān was again expelled from office in 1778[1]; and with the death of the former and the dismissal of the latter the office of *Nāib* of the *Niẓāmat* came to an end.

APPENDIX B.

The Vazīr.

The word *Vazīr* is Arabic, and its literal meaning is 'porter'. It is thus exactly parallel to the English word 'minister', in its primary sense of 'servant', and its derived sense of a high officer of state.

During the Mughal rule in India the *vizārat* as a separate office did not exist. All the highest posts in the state were held by military officers who were distinguished by their *manṣabs*. The *manṣab* was a military

[1] He had sided with Gen. Clavering and his party against Hastings and so procured his reinstatement. When Clavering died in 1777 Hastings dismissed him from all the posts he held. See *Seir Mutaqherin* (Eng. tr.) III 80, 91.

title signifying the number of horse under the command of the title-holder. The *Āin-i-Akbarī*, our only contemporary authority for the Mughal constitution and administration, gives the highest *manṣab* as the command of 10,000 horse; this was usually held by the heir to the throne. It is in the later period of the Mughal rule, *viz.* after the death of Aurangzēb, when the Empire was on the decline, that the title of *Vazīr* comes prominently into our notice. Yet even then it does not seem to signify any particular post or office ; it is still a mere title of distinction conferred on an influential chief, who might secure it from his sovereign either through the royal favour or by his own power. Nor yet was it the highest that the Great Mughal could confer ; there were others, such as *Vakīl-i-mutlaq*, sometimes bestowed on a favourite minister as one powerful chief had to be superseded by another more serviceable and faithful. Most notable among those who were called *Vazīr* we may count Asad Khan in the reign of Bahādur Shah, Zulfaqār Khān in the reigns of Bahādur Shah and Jahāndar Shah, Sayyid 'Abdu'l-lah in the reigns of Farrukh Siyar and his immediate successors Sayyid 'Abdu'l-lah was the governor of Allahabad and by his acts deserved the name which he bears in history of 'king maker'. After him the government of the province of Allahabad was for some time, like the government of Oudh later on, an annexe to the title of *Vazīr*, which the gradual arrogation of duties, rights and responsibilities, as yet not clearly defined, by its successive holders had converted into an office. The next notable *Vazīrs* were Niẓāmu'l-Mulk, *Ṣubahdār* of the Deccan (from whom the present Niẓāms of Hyderabad are descended), and Safdar Jang, in the reigns of Muḥammad Shah and Aḥmad Shah respectively. Ṣafdar Jang was the nephew and successor of Sa'ādat Khan, the Viceroy of Oudh, who founded the line of the independent Nawabs of Oudh. He resided at Delhi and ruled the Empire with absolute authority, while the king gave himself up to a life of pleasure. He was succeeded in the *Vizārat* by Intiẓāmu'd-Daulah.[1] Intiẓāmu'd-Daulah's nephew Ghāzīu'd-Din Khān,[2] who subsequently became notorious for his wickedness and cruelty, was at this time Commander of the Imperial forces. He now set on foot an intrigue to oust his uncle and usurp the *Vizārat*, which he soon obtained with the help of the Mahrattas. As the Emperor's movements roused suspicions in his mind he deposed and blinded him, raising to the throne the vain and weak 'Ālamgīr II whom he kept a prisoner at Delhi. Ghāzīu'd-Dīn continued in the *Vizārat* which, backed by the force of the Mahrattas, he held until 1759, when the Emperor was murdered at his command. Soon after Aḥmad Shah Abdālī the king of Afghanistan entered the Punjab and advanced on Delhi. Ghāzīu'd-Dīn, whose friendship with the Mahrattas exposed him to resentment of the Shah, fled from Delhi and he took himself to the protection of the Raja of the Jāts.

The next *Vazīr* of the Empire was Āṣaf Jah Shujā'u'l-Mulk, the Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah Abu'l-Maṣur Khān Bahādur Ṣafdar Jang

[1] He was the youngest son of Qamaru'd-Dīn Khan the *Vazīr* of Muḥammad Shah.

[2] He was the grandson of Niẓāmu'l-Mulk, the first Viceroy of the Deccan.

Sipah Sālār. It is he who is meant by 'the *Vazīr*' in this as well as in the preceding volumes of the *Persian Calendar*. Shuja'u'd-Daulah was the son of Ṣafdar Jang, and succeeded his father in the Viceroyalty of Oudh in 1753. On the death of 'Alamgīr II in 1759, the prince Imperial 'Alī Guhar who was then in Bihar proclaimed himself Emperor of Hindustan under the title of Shah 'Ālām II. He had escaped from Delhi to save himself from the clutches of G͟hāzīu'd-Din and had sought shelter with Nawab Shujā'u'd-Daulah. The latter was now rewarded with the style of *Vazīr* of the Empire. But lacking men and resources the new Emperor could not return and oust his enemies from his capital. Accordingly with the help of the Nawab he set out towards the end of 1758 to conquer the provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa against the combined armies of the *Nawab Nāẓim* of Bengal, and of his allies and protectors since Plassey, the East India Company. Aḥmad Shah Abdālī was now preparing to meet the Mahrattas, against whose formidable power he invited all the Mussulman Chiefs of Hindustan to combine. Shuja'u'd-Daulah accepted the invitation and joined hands with the invader, and rendered him valuable help in the battle of Panipat in 1761, which destroyed once for all the Mahrattas' hopes of founding an Empire.

Two years later a quarrel arose between Mīr Qāsim 'Ālī K͟hān *Nawab Nāẓim* of Bengal, and the East India Company who had placed him on the *masnad*. The Nawab, several times defeated by the English army, fled from Bengal and took refuge with Shujā'u'd-Daulah. The *Vazīr* at once took up the cause of the fugitive Nawab and also induced the throneless Emperor Shah 'Ālam, who had been living in his territory and practically depended on him, to accompany him in an expedition towards the east. The Emperor, the *Vazīr*, and the ex-Nawab all now marched together on Patna which they assaulted on 3 May 1764. But the city was defended by the English troops and the invaders had to retire to Buxar, where they encamped during the rains. Major Hector Munro at the head of the largest English force which had yet assembled in India marched on Buxar, met the *Vazīr's* army, and completely defeated it. The Emperor surrendered and placed himself under the protection of the English, while the *Vazīr* escaped to his own territories where he was followed up and again defeated at Kora by Major Carnac. A campaign of less than a year brought the Emperor and the *Vazīr*, the highest *de jure* authorities in Hindustan, to the feet of the English. At this moment Lord Clive returned to India with a commission to reform abuses in the Company's service, and to revise their relations with the country powers. His policy was to establish the British Power in India on a secure base without effecting any revolution in the politics of the country, or openly opposing its established rulers, which might show the English in the light of rebels before the eyes of the people. And now the results of the victory at Buxar gave into his hands the means of establishing a system of relations between the English, the Emperor and the *Vazīr*, which was destined to have vast and far-reaching consequences. A treaty was concluded at Allahabad in 1765, and the friendship of the two vanquished rulers was secured by the most generous terms. All the territories of the *Vazīr*

conquered by the English were restored to him,[1] with the exception of the districts of Kora and Allahabad, which were ceded to the Emperor 'as a royal demesne for the support of his dignity and expenses'. The *Vazīr* had to pay 50 *lākhs* of rupees to the English by way of indemnity and had to confirm Raja Balwant Sing, who had helped the English against him, in the *zamindārī* of Benares and Ghazipur for an annual tribute of 22 *lākhs* of rupees. The Emperor granted to the East India Company the *Dīvānī*, *i.e.*, the right of collecting and receiving the revenues of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, while he was to receive a yearly tribute of 26 *lākhs* of rupees from the Company as the *Dīvān* of the said provinces. The Nawab was reappointed to the *Vizārat* at the recommendation of Lord Clive. In courting the friendship of the *Vazīr* Clive had three ends in view. Firstly it was necessary to secure some influential party who could represent the interests of the East India Company at the Royal Court, for though bereft of all real power, the name of the Great Mughal, like that of the Roman Emperor in Mediæval Europe, still carried weight throughout the land. Secondly, his dominions were the sole barrier between the Mahrattas and Rohillas and the British possessions in Bengal, and he was one of the most powerful chiefs of Hindustan. If he would secure their frontiers against troublesome neighbours, the English would be relieved of a heavy burden in men and money. As to the Emperor, no reliance could be placed on him, fickle and throneless, whom every upstart power aspired to draw into its influence. Thirdly, his name could be used to lend a semblance of authority for all the political transactions of the English. The *Vazīr* thus became a dependent ally of the British: he could not dare turn against them, for the British troops, lent to him for the protection of his dominions and supported at his cost, could at any time be employed to coerce him. It was this British influence which prevented him from following the Emperor when in 1771 he left the protection of the Company, notwithstanding their strong protests, and allowed the Mahrattas to seat him on the throne of his ancestors at Delhi.

During the six years, 1765-71, that Shah 'Alam resided at Allahabad Shujā'u'd-Daulah lived, not at the Royal Court, but either at Fyzabad which was the capital of his dominions, or at Lucknow. The Emperor having really no Empire, his *Vazīr* had no important duties to fulfil; such nominal duties as the Emperor chose to entrust to him were performed by the *Nāib Vazīr* Nawab Munīru'd-Daulah. On his departure to Delhi, Shah 'Ālam ceded the provinces of Kora and Allahabad to the Mahrattas. The English however considering that by this act of alienation they had reverted to the original donors, transferred them to the *Vazīr* on payment of 50 *lākhs* of rupees. The most important event that marked the last year of Shujā'u'd-Daulah's life was his conquest and annexation of Rohilkhand with the help of British troops in 1774. In the following year he died. The title of *Vazīr* remained hereditary in his house, chiefly through the influence of the

[1] The Committee wrote to Clive, 21 June 1765: 'We would decline insisting upon any terms that must prove irksome to his high spirit and imply a suspicion of his sincerity.' *Select Committee proc.*, 1765 (I) p. 82.

English, till 1819, when Ghāzīu'd-Dīn Ḥaidar, the seventh Nawab, at the suggestion of the Marquis of Hastings, assumed the title of King of Oudh.

APPENDIX C.

The Chauth.

The word *chauth* is Sanskrit, and means a fourth part. It was popularly applied to the fourth part of the revenue of a district, which the Mahrattas demanded as the price of its exemption from plunder. But its history is so inextricably bound up with that of another impost called *Sirdesmukhī*, that the two cannot be considered apart, and without saying something of the history of the latter. Though the Deccan had come under the power of the Muslim conquerors as early as the beginning of the 14th century, they interfered but little in its internal administration. Even later when independent Muhammadan kingdoms sprang up in southern India, the revenue system of the country remained exactly the same as it had been under the ancient Hindu Rajas. Indeed some of the forms of land tenure which prevailed then are said to have survived from pre-Aryan Dravidian days, *e. g. Sirdesmukhī Watan.* Thus it came about that in the Mahratta country the Hindus were not only employed by their Muhammadan rulers in high offices, but the collection of revenue was allowed to remain entirely in their hands. There were different grades of these revenue officers, each district being in the charge of a *Desmukhya*, who received *Sirdesmukhī*, or a tenth of the revenue, as his dues. This was supposed to cover the cost of collection and to defray the expense of the troops which he was required to maintain in order to ensure peace and tranquillity in his district. The *Desmukhyas* were also required to place a certain number of troops at the disposal of Muhammadan *Ṣubahdārs* and *Faujdārs* (Executive and Police officers) whenever necessary. This right to receive the tenth of the revenue of a district in lieu of service was called *Sirdesmukhī Watan.* Over and above this the *Desmukhyas* were sometimes rewarded with large *jāgīrs* by their Muhammadan masters, and in course of time many influential Mahratta families came to enjoy this privilege. The system of revenue administration by Hindu officials continued till the beginning of the 17th century when it began gradually to be superseded by the Mughal system of revenue cellection, as the conquests of the Mughals extended in the Deccan. But during the reign of Shah Jahān in 1650 Sivajī, the founder of the Mahratta Power, petitioned the Emperor for the grant of the *Sirdesmukhī* of certain districts in the kingdom of Bijapur conquered by the Mughals, on the ground that his ancestors had enjoyed the right in those districts under their former rulers. This was the first time that such a right was demanded within the limits of the Mughal Empire, and nothing came of it. In no way discour ged by this failure the Mahratta Chief persisted in his demand. The demand became a threat, when, after capturing some hill forts from Bijapur, he began to raid the borders of the Mughal Empire. But success did not long attend him : the fortresses were retaken by the Mughal General

whom the Emperor sent to punish him, and being hard pressed, he was compelled to sue for peace. In 1666 a Convention was concluded between him and the Mughal General, Raja Jai Sing, by which Sivaji surrendered all his forts in exchange for the grant of a *jāgīr* from the Mughal Emperor and of the *Sirdesmukhī Watan*, to which he added a new demand for a fourth of the revenue of certain districts of the Deccan under the name of *Chauth*. (This is the first mention of *Chauth* we find in history.) Aurangzēb met the demand with an invitation to Delhi. Once there the guest soon found himself a prisoner, but contrived to escape to the Deccan. He now determined to collect *Chauth* and *Sirdesmukhī* from the unprotected portions of the Southern States of the Deccan and from the out-lying cities and districts of the Mughal Empire. Those which paid the impost, which now assumed the character of black-mail, were spared, while those which refused tasted fire and sword from his predatory bands. He stormed the rich city of Surat and ruthlessly sacked it, extorting large sums of money from the English and Dutch factories. In 1668 Sivajī realised *Chauth* from the kingdoms of Bijapur and Golconda.

Thus the beginning and dovelopment of *Chauth* coincides with the rise and advance of the Mahratta Power. At the death of Aurangzēb the Mughal Empire, which only a succession of strong rulers had made a living and united force, entered upon its steady decline, and as steadily the Mahratta confederacy gained in strength till it was consolidated by the Pēshwā[1] Bālājī Visvanāth. In 1719, acting on behalf of his master Sāhū, the Mahratta King, he took advantage of the troubles which beset the Mughal Empire to extort from Farrukh Siyar and Muḥammad Shah, through their Vazīr Sayyid Ḥusain 'Ali, a grant of the *Chauth* and *Sirdesmukhī* of the whole of the Deccan. Under the terms of this grant Raja Sāhū was to keep a body of 15,000 horse ready at the disposal of the Mughal governors, *Faujdārs* and other officers in charge of the Deccan.

The *Chauth* though similar in its origin and in other respects to the *Sirdesmukhī* was, in its incidents and conditions unlike the latter not a '*watan*' or 'service tenure', but a payment for undertaking the protection of the country against lawlessness within and attacks from without. The last condition is most important, for it brought the *Chauth*-paying districts under the Mahratta protectorate, which, as was only to be expected, soon ripened into dominion. But though the Pēshwā Bālājī Visvanāth had won from the Emperor the *Chauth* of the Deccan, the central government being weak and the provinces more or less independent of the throne at Delhi, the Mahrattas could not enter into their rights without a struggle. It was not till 1728 that the Niẓām, being hard pressed, ratified the Imperial grant and paid a large sum as the *Chauth* of his dominions, though he did not allow the Mahrattas to

[1] *Pēshwā*, P. lit. a guide. It was a title assumed by Bālājī Visvanāth, the able Brahmin Prime Minister of Raja Sāhū, the Mahratta king of Satara. The office and the title both became hereditary in his family, to whose remarkable ability and statesmanship the subsequent growth and extension of the Mahratta Power was largely due.

interfere with the internal regulation of his state. But the rest of the Deccan, possessing no cohesion, fell an easy prey to the Mahrattas, who appointed their own revenue collectors and continued to realise the *Chauth* from the whole of southern India up to the borders of Mysore. Needless to say they themselves assessed the revenue of the provinces but with such arbitrariness, that what was still modestly called *Chauth* often exceeded the half and even equalled the whole of the real revenue. Thus the *Chauth* gave both a plea and a sanction to the Mahrattas little by little to extend their supremacy over the whole of the Mughal Empire, as one piece after another of the crumbling fabric was snatched away to build their own dominion. At last about the middle of the 18th century they wrung from the Emperor a formal grant of *Chauth* of the whole of his nominal Empire. The provinces which were well-organised and strong enough to resist escaped after a short struggle. These were Bengal, Oudh, the Doab, the Niẓām's Dominion, Mysore, etc. But the greater part of the Indian Empire came under the direct rule of the Mahrattas, whose power reached its culminating point in 1759. Then came the great catastrophe of Panipat (1761) when Aḥmad Shah Abdālī swooped down from Afghanistan and joining with the Muhammadan princes of Hindustan dealt them a deadly blow, sweeping before him the hordes of the Mahrattas, cutting down some 200,000 and driving the remainder headlong into the Deccan. Henceforward the Mahrattas were practically confined within the limits of their own territory and their levy of *Chauth* became less and less frequent: their immediate neighbours still suffered occasionally, when they ventured abroad on some plundering or warlike expedition. Slowly their strength ebbed away, and with it the *Chauth* disappeared from the history of India.

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A. = Arabic; A.-P. = Arabic Persian; Beng. = Bengali; H. = Hindi; H.-P. = Hindi Persian; Mar. = Marathi; P. = Persian; S. = Sanskrit; T. = Turki.

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